

KANSAS STATE PREVIEW



THE ORIGINAL MAGAZINE DEDICATED TO THE KANSAS ATHLETICS

# HUSKERS

ILLUSTRATED



# 40 YEARS and counting...

NOVEMBER 15, 2008 | VOLUME 28 | NO. 17

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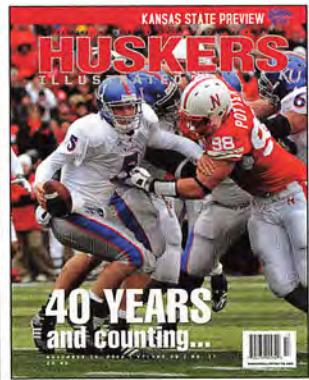
## HUSKERS

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### ON THE COVER

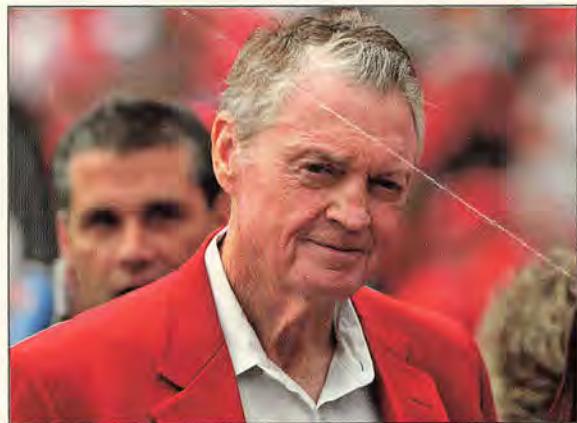
Zach Potter sacks Kansas quarterback Todd Reesing, leading the Huskers to their 20th consecutive win over the Jayhawks in Lincoln. Kansas last won at Memorial Stadium in 1968.

Photo by Randy Hampton



### NEXT ISSUE

The Kansas State preview/Colorado preview will be mailed on Monday, Nov. 17. Check for updates at [huskersillustrated.com](http://huskersillustrated.com).



## “WALK-ONS ARE

an important part of our Nebraska football tradition, and they will continue to be.”

TOM OSBORNE

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## BEGIN DREAMING

### Kansas win sets stage for nine-win season



**NEBRASKA'S GAME** against Kansas was a season-changing victory.

It was big because the Huskers improved to 6-4 and became bowl eligible, ensuring the Huskers a bowl appearance in late December or even New Year's Day after sitting at home two of the last four years. And that bowl appearance will be especially sweet after sitting on the couch with a 5-7 record a year ago.

The game was big because it continued a special streak in one of the longest rivalries in NCAA history. The 103rd consecutive meeting between the Huskers and Jayhawks preserved one of Nebraska's only remaining streaks against Big 12 opponents as the Huskers handed Kansas its 20th consecutive loss in Lincoln, a streak that dates back to 1968. Hence our cover, "40 years and counting."

Nebraska's victory also helped begin to erase last year's embarrassing loss in Lawrence – a 76-39 drubbing by the Jayhawks.

But this victory was significant for a much different reason. It was a potential landmark win for Bo Pelini and Company because it allows Husker fans to begin to dream – dream of a nine-win season.

The Cornhuskers will close out the regular season against two opponents they will be favored to win – Kansas State and Colorado. A bowl victory would move the Huskers

to 9-4 in Pelini's debut season, a marked improvement from Bill Callahan's final season.

Nebraska's tradition is synonymous with nine-win seasons. Nine wins were the benchmark at Nebraska from 1968-2001. But after winning at least nine games for 33 straight years, Nebraska has won just nine games twice in the last six seasons (2003 and 2006). That six-year span saw the Huskers go 45-32 overall and just 23-25 in Big 12 play before Pelini's arrival.

If Nebraska can repeat Saturday's performance against Kansas (minus the turnovers) it should be a recipe for success. The Huskers gained 495 yards on offense behind outstanding efforts from Joe Ganz (324 yards passing, three touchdowns) and Roy Helu Jr. (two touchdowns, 115 yards rushing, 61 receiving). Defensively the Huskers best players (Zach Potter, Ndamukong Suh) made the game-breaking plays when needed.

Kansas State is a program in turmoil, while Colorado needed last-minute heroics at home to pull off a win against hapless Iowa State. There is no reason for Nebraska to lose either of those two games.

So start dreaming. **N**

*Send us your comments or story ideas to [huskersillustrated@gmail.com](mailto:huskersillustrated@gmail.com).*

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# Big Red Mailbag

**SEND US YOUR LETTERS!!** Huskers Illustrated loves to hear from its readers. Have an opinion to share about a story in this issue? Send us a letter. Have an opinion about the Huskers? Drop us a line. Want to share a photo from your last Husker game? We'll take it. **IF WE PRINT YOUR LETTER, WE'LL SEND YOU A SPECIAL HUSKER GIFT!** Send digital photos and letters to [huskersillustrated@gmail.com](mailto:huskersillustrated@gmail.com) and your regular snapshots and letters to HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED, 7755 S. 23rd St., Lincoln, NE 68512. Letters may be edited for length and grammar.

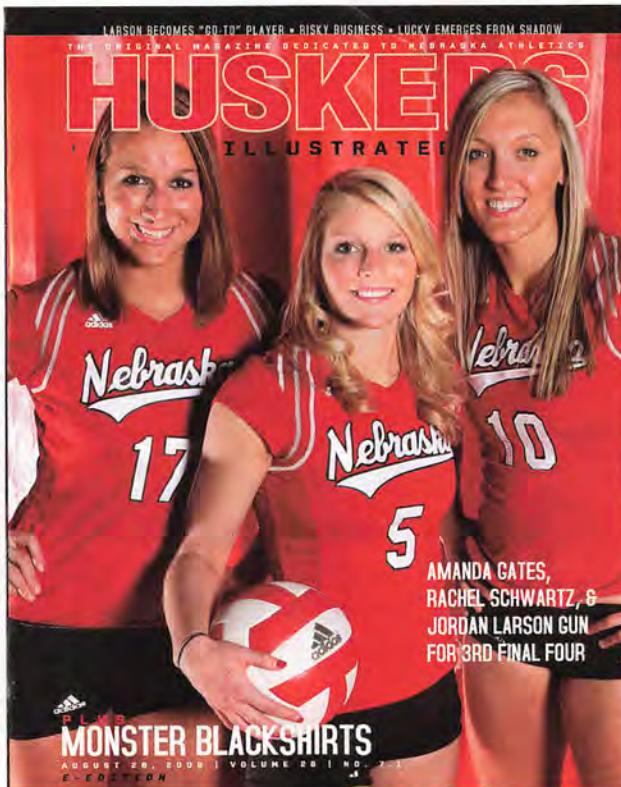


## FOOTBALL & VOLLEYBALL

I just read a letter to the editor from Wes Barton (class of '56) indicating his interest in Nebraska volleyball. I have given my attention to them over the football team as he has and I do understand the rules. The fact that he has lost interest in watching the football team get beat by several touchdowns on their own hallowed field is plenty reason to look elsewhere for a team that knows how to compete and win.

Coach Cook takes average talent and makes believers out of his players. That is the obvious difference. The idea that it takes a team five years to "become" great is total nonsense. Either they believe they can win or they don't.

I played on three losing basketball teams in high school, but then my senior year a new coach arrived. He had never coached before, but he knew what to do and we believed what he said and we won our district that year and qualified for the



state playoffs. We had the same players as the three previous years, but his coaching made the difference. He turned losers into winners in his first year.

Coach Cook has his players

believing they can win, and they do. As a reader of your magazine, please do us volleyball fans a favor. Give the volleyball team more than one page in the back of your magazine. After all, they beat Oklahoma already, and we fans love them for it. Give credit where credit is due.

**KENNETH MORRIS**

Nebraska native, now living in Texas...ugh!

*Kenneth*

*Thanks for your letter, but I must take issue with your comments. Nobody can argue over the success of the Nebraska volleyball program. It's one of the most successful athletic programs in the country.*

*I don't believe anybody can argue John Cook's value as a coach, considering he improved his record to 433-90 with a win at Texas A&M last week (272-17) at Nebraska.*

*But you can't compare football and volleyball for a number of reasons, that I won't even begin to debate in this forum.*

*I do have to point out that it's easy to support a team while it's winning championships. It was easy to support the football team in the 90's and it's been easy to support the volleyball team since – well, forever.*

*With all due respect to your successful senior campaign in your high school basketball days, it has no relevance. You simply cannot compare turning around a high school basketball team and turning around a collegiate football program.*

*And while I agree that believing in yourself and in your teammates can be an important tool in a team's success, it is not the reason the volleyball program is successful.*

*The football team will return to winning championships when it has some of the best talent in the country and executes on a methodically consistent basis.*

*Belief can only take you so far. I can believe I'm going to shoot a 62 when I step on the golf course, but it just isn't going to happen (ask anybody in my regular foursome).*

*If you're looking for some additional volleyball coverage, check out our special volleyball E-edition (pictured) that is available at [HuskersIllustrated.com](http://HuskersIllustrated.com).*

**AARON BABCOCK**

*General Manager/Editor*

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# 2MinuteDrill



## MANAGER

In **SHAWN WATSON'S** offense, the quarterback is more manager than initiator. In that sense, the offense defines the quarterback. The quarterback doesn't define the offense.

**JOE GANZ** has fit that philosophy this season. Next season, the job will be **PATRICK WITT'S**, or **ZAC LEE'S**, or **KODY SPANO'S** or **JIM EBKE'S** or **CODY GREEN'S**. But whichever quarterback emerges will have to understand how to be a manager. And that can be a difficult adjustment for someone who is used to making things happen instead of doing what the offense allows.

"It's a different gig," Watson said recently. "That's the biggest thing a young quarterback has got to learn. That's why, like when I have quarterback camps or we're evaluating quarterbacks, it's really,

really important that I get a guy who's a grinder, who wants to learn, wants to grind, wants to get in the classroom, wants to learn football, wants to come out and work hard on the field, train himself fundamentally so everything is instinctual as opposed to having to think about it.

"It's important it's that way with his learning curve in terms of X's and O's, so I want to work with the guys before we ever recruit them because I think character is so big in their development."

Wherever he has coached, "all the really good players I've been blessed to be around, and there's a bunch of them, they've all been students of the game, grinders," said Watson.

Ganz is the perfect example, and the young quarterbacks in the system, have had the opportunity to watch and learn from

him. As a result, "they're way ahead of where they would be if we had a freshman as a starter, a sophomore," Watson said. "These guys behind him, they wouldn't even be close to where they're at now because they've had to catch Joe."

They've had to try to catch Ganz, anyway, and that has made them better.

Ganz understands what it means to manage the offense. "I don't force throws, go out there looking for big plays. I'll just kind of let them happen," he said early in the season.

"It's just playing within my offense is what Coach Watson really coached me about. I'm not going out there trying to take chances. I don't feel the pressure to go try and throw a bomb . . . let the offense work for me and not try to go outside of it. I don't really try to force big plays."

# 2MinuteDrill



**A PEER'S RESPECT:** During the Big 12 coaches teleconference the week after the Iowa State game, Cyclones coach Gene Chizik complimented **BO PELINI**. The Cornhuskers are "really coming around under Bo, and they're really taking on his personality. Defensively, boy, they run around. They're physical. They fly to the football. We had our opportunities to kind of try to close. That was really impressive because they kept fighting."

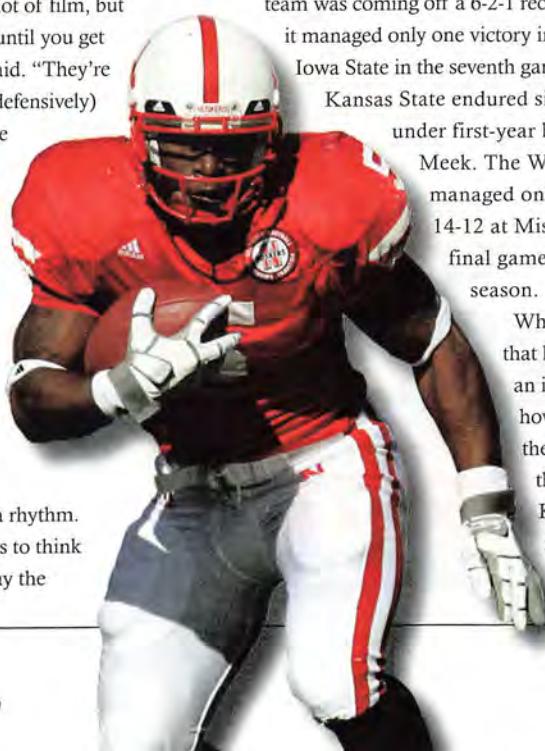
## GETTING IN A RHYTHM

Running backs need to get in a rhythm. What does that mean? **MARLON LUCKY** explained recently. It's "when you get a couple of plays and you see how the defense goes and you see their weaknesses and you just hit their weaknesses throughout the whole game," he said.

Getting in a rhythm occurs during game-action. "You watch a lot of film, but film doesn't tell it all, until you get on the field," Lucky said. "They're switching their stuff (defensively) around because they're watching film, too, so they switch the defense up or whatever."

"You get in there and you've got to find their weakness and just hit it."

The more simplified the offensive scheme, the easier it is to get into a rhythm. "You've got less things to think about and you just play the game," said Lucky.



## TIE THEN WIN

Nebraska has dominated the Kansas State series, with 75 victories and two ties in 92 games. One of the victories ended in a 6-6 tie. The game was played at Manhattan, Kan., in 1951. But Kansas State subsequently forfeited. So the score is officially listed as 1-0.

Coach **BILL GLASSFORD**'s third Nebraska team was coming off a 6-2-1 record in 1950. But it managed only one victory in 1951, 34-27 at Iowa State in the seventh game of the season.

Kansas State endured similar frustration under first-year head coach Bill Meek. The Wildcats also managed only one victory, 14-12 at Missouri in the final game of the regular season.

When Meek learned that his team had used an ineligible player, however, he reported the infraction to the NCAA. And Kansas State forfeited both victory and tie.

## SIDELINES



### INTERTWINED

The Cornhuskers dominated time of possession during the three-game stretch involving Texas Tech, Iowa State and Baylor, underscoring the relationship between offense and defense. "I believe this: You can't have a great defense without a great offense," coach **BO PELINI** said.

"You have to be efficient on both sides of the football . . . the best defense is not being out there for a ton of plays, and I think you see that. You're not going to have a really good offense without a good defense. It's a whole team thing. You have to be efficient and have things going on both sides of the football for it all to work."

### IN MEMORIAM

Nebraska's 1956 team had not one but two players from Portland, Maine, both halfbacks:

**FRANK NAPPI** and **WILLIE**

**GREENLAW**. Nappi died in early October, at the age of 74. Nappi, who also lettered for the Cornhuskers as a baseball player, was drafted into the Army during the Korean War.

# 2 Minute Drill

## Pelini looks to control emotions



**BO PELINI'S PASSION** for coaching the game of football is unquestioned.

However, in a 62-28 loss at Oklahoma, ESPN's telecast frequently showed Pelini cutting loose with a flurry of tirades directed at officials, players and assistant coaches. The first-year head coach said he's since become aware — thanks in part to a family member — that his sideline antics have crossed the line.

"I'm a highly emotional guy, but I've got to be careful," Pelini said. "There's a difference between being animated and using some words you wish you didn't use."

While Pelini believes he's in control of his temper, he said he also realizes how his antics might impact the program's image in the eyes of fans and potential recruits.

"Perception is reality," Pelini said. "So that's something I have to fix. I understand that."

In 10 games as a head coach at Nebraska, including his one game as interim coach for the 2003 Alamo Bowl against Michigan State,

Pelini has been flagged for two unsportsmanlike conduct penalties. Against Oklahoma, he was shown numerous times screaming into his headset and yelling at officials.

Pelini said he has talked to Nebraska athletics director **TOM OSBORNE** about the matter. In fact, Pelini said he initiated the conversation with the Hall of Fame coach.

"Coach Osborne knows the type of person that I am and the kind of heart I have, but he also understands that I'm emotional," Pelini said. "I know, from my standpoint, I've got to be smarter than that."

Nebraska senior linebacker **TYLER WORTMAN** said he doesn't have a problem with Pelini's intense coaching style.

"Coach Pelini will definitely get after you when you make a mistake, but it's never personal," Wortman said. "He just wants every player to be the best that they can be."

One act Pelini made no apologies for was briefly grabbing the facemask of Terrence Moore and yelling at him after the Nebraska defensive tackle was ejected from the Oklahoma game for throwing a punch.

"That's something that is not going to be tolerated on our football team," Pelini said. "If I need to grab his facemask so he gets the point across and he looks me in the eye ... I'm going to make a point."

"I'm not going to hit the young man — I'd never do something like that — but I'm going to get my point across in that instance that that isn't our football team and that isn't going to be tolerated in our program, period."

## SIDELINES



### ON THE ROAD AGAIN

The Cornhuskers go on the road for the final time during the regular season, to Kansas State. The trip to Norman, Okla., notwithstanding, going on the road can be fun, according to quarterback **JOE GANZ**. "It's a change of scenery going out there and getting booed," he said. "Everybody is rowdy. The fans are yelling at you. The guys kind of enjoy it. That's the attitude we have to take."

"It's kind of nice to get away and get booed. It kind of puts you back into reality."

Nebraska played well in its other road games this season, taking Texas Tech to overtime before losing and then winning at Iowa State, the Cornhuskers' first road victory since Sept. 8, 2007 at Wake Forest. Former coach **BILL CALLAHAN**'s teams were 7-12 in road games.

Nebraska snapped a four-game losing streak in Manhattan in 2006, winning 21-3.

### HUSKERS ON THE GO

The new Huskers Illustrated Radio Show, sponsored by the Nebraska Lottery, is now available as a podcast on Apple's iTunes Store.

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## NEBRASKA FOOTBALL VAULT



**THE NEBRASKA FOOTBALL VAULT** may be the greatest Husker book you'll ever find. It is unlike the books that may be boxed away in your basement or lining your bookshelves. This 144-page book documents and illustrates Nebraska's program with never-before-published photos from football's early beginnings in 1890 where players wore canvas suits, black stockings and caps to its modern day version with high-powered spread offenses.

The *Nebraska Football Vault* is written by *Huskers Illustrated*'s own **MIKE BABCOCK**, whom we consider the leading authority on Husker history. Like Babcock's previous books, he's managed to dig up both educational and entertaining moments in Nebraska's football history – many of which you won't find elsewhere.

The stories and history alone in the *Nebraska Football Vault* would make this book worth purchasing. But what makes this hard-back book so special is its packaging. The 12.5" by 10.5" book is a time capsule of Cornhusker football. Inside the book, tucked into numerous pockets, are replicated treasures from Nebraska's proud moments. Whitman Publishing has reproduced old game program covers, tickets, postcards and player cards and included them in the book. Such items include an 1891 flyer advertising the first college game in Nebraska, the 1907 team photo and a replica ticket from Nebraska's historic win over Oklahoma in 1959 (pictured).

The game was a signature win because it marked Coach Bill Jennings' biggest upset – a 25-21 homecoming win over Oklahoma on Halloween. The Cornhuskers ended Oklahoma's 74-game conference unbeaten streak after Ron Meade kicked two field goals and intercepted a pass in the end zone with 25 seconds to preserve the victory.

Think of this book as a giant scrapbook, with over 50 replica items, most of which are of such quality they could be framed or displayed in your house.

Babcock also documents the 10 biggest games in each of eight eras of the program, beginning with Nebraska's 10-0 win over Omaha YMCA on Nov. 27, 1890 and ending with Nebraska's 22-20 loss to Texas on Oct. 21, 2006.

This book is a must have for Husker fans of any age and as the holiday season approaches would make a great gift for the die-hard Cornhusker in your family. The Nebraska Football Vault, along with similar vaults for other football and basketball programs can be found at [www.collegevaultbooks.com](http://www.collegevaultbooks.com) for an absolute steal of \$49.95.

# 2 Minute Drill



## Thomas Grove - Arlington, NE



During the week before the Baylor game, Thomas Grove wore a yellow No. 7 jersey. He was practicing on the scout squad. And he was simulating Baylor linebacker Antonio Johnson.

Grove takes scout-squad responsibility seriously. "Just because you're on scout team doesn't mean

you just read off a card and you're a robot," Grove said. "You definitely want to give it all you can, try to help your team. You want to give our staff and players the best look possible."

To that end, he studies video of opponents on his own, "kind of model my play on how they play, so come Saturday, they say I look just like him or better," said Grove.

"That's what I try to do every week."

Grove walked on and played as a true freshman last season, after being included on the pre-season practice roster of 105. He might have benefited from a redshirt, like most who walk on. Whether he should have redshirted, however, "that's a hard question," he said. "I couldn't really pass up the chance to play. That's just kind of how it is. I'm playing now."

In his case, the additional season would have allowed him to adjust to linebacker. He rushed for 1,133 yards and 17 touchdowns as a running back his senior year in high school. But he was told he would focus on defense and be a linebacker when he got to Nebraska.

"I'm still kind of learning to play linebacker, just kind of the verbiage and everything's different. I kind of picked this up a little bit better as far as getting the core defense down," he said. "I thought it would be more difficult than it was because I was a (offensive) back."

Grove also has taken advantage of the educational opportunity provided by Nebraska. He has a 4.0 cumulative grade-point average with a pre-medicine major. **N**



## SIDELINES

### SUCH GOOD FRIENDS

Much was made of **BO PELINI**'s friendship with Sooner coach Bob Stoops the week of the Oklahoma game. "I learned a lot that year there," said Pelini, who was Stoops' co-defensive coordinator in 2004 before going to LSU. "He's a leader. He's tough. His teams play physical, aggressive.

"They coach really hard and I think he does a great job of maintaining a balance in his life, but at the same time, does a phenomenal job coaching. There were a lot of things that I took out of that year. It was a great experience and one that I benefited greatly from, spending a year in Norman."

### MORE BO HUMOR

Before the Cornhuskers' ill-fated trip to Norman, Okla., Coach **BO PELINI** was asked if Athletic Director **TOM OSBORNE** shared any thoughts with him about the rivalry.

"He just told me to win the game," Pelini said, eliciting laughter at his weekly news conference. "He told me if I don't win, I'm fired, so I hope I win."

"Good luck," a reporter said.

"What are you, a realtor?" said Pelini.

Pelini also was asked if Osborne had discussed how difficult winning against the Sooners had been early in his career. Osborne's teams lost their first five games against Oklahoma. "I don't know," Pelini said. "He's been away from coaching long enough, in his mind, he didn't lose any."

Osborne didn't lose many. His career record was 255-49-3.

### THOMAS GROVE

6-2, 225, Sophomore, Linebacker

**Hometown:** Arlington, Neb.

**County:** Washington

**Population:** 1,197

**Distance from Lincoln:** 50 miles

#### Small-school advantage:

"Small-school advantage: "The thing at Arlington I couldn't get at a bigger school was that I played four sports. I could play baseball, basketball, football and track. That's not something you could do at a big, Class A venue. You can kind of develop more as an athlete instead of just zeroing in on one sport."

#### Nebraska football lettermen:

Thomas Grove, LB (2007)

Clint Brown, LB (1993-94)

Hugh Rhea, T (1929-31)



PHOTOS BY JOE BURNS/ENTERPRISE PUBLISHING



## THE BIG 12 BEAT

BY CURT MCKEEVER

# Stoops favors football playoff

**TEXAS TECH'S DRAMATIC** last-second win against top-ranked Texas on Nov. 1 kept the Longhorns from sweeping four straight games against opponents that were ranked no lower than No. 11.

What that and the crowded scene in the Big 12 South Division — where the Red Raiders held a one-game lead over the Longhorns, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State — did was give Sooners' coach Bob Stoops another selling point for NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision to go to a playoff.

Tech's first-ever win against a No. 1 team set up a realistic scenario in which three teams could finish 7-1 and have to wait for the BCS rankings on Nov. 30 to determine the South's representative in the Big 12 title game.

That, of course, would affect what happens to the three come bowl time.

And if you think the final BCS tally would be easy to figure, consider that Oklahoma fell from No. 4 to No. 6 in the BCS rankings after its 62-28 rout of Nebraska.

"I've come full circle. Any more, I can see (the argument)," Stoops said of favoring a playoff. "Just with the differences in non-conference scheduling, whether you have some difficult games or some people don't. And then the strengths of different conferences. Some conferences don't have a championship game, others do."

Stoops' comments came when the Big 12 South had four teams in the Top 10.

"I'm for (a playoff)," he continued. "That's something, though, I still see, timing-wise, with the schedule and number of games, it's still going to be difficult to put together."

One would be hard pressed to find a bigger college football fan than **TEXAS** coach Mack

Brown. But after experiencing a mob scene in the moments after Tech beat his club, Brown issued a stern warning.

"We're going to have a real sad situation or a real tragedy at some point," Brown said in regard to Tech fans swarming the field. "I'm amazed in college football, we talk about security all the time. We limit the number of people on the sidelines, then after the game we let everybody, even those who could have come from outside, run out on the field and push coaches and players. We're all going to look up one day and be really, really sad."

Brown said Longhorns' quarterback Colt McCoy and some of his coaches were nearly run over trying to escape the scene.

"I'm really, really proud of (Athletic Director) DeLoss Dodds and President (William) Powers and our Texas fans that we don't do that at Texas."

**OKLAHOMA** redshirt freshman linebacker Travis Lewis amazed his teammates and coaches by playing in the Sooners' game against Nebraska. Five days earlier, Lewis' infant daughter, who had been battling health issues since being born prematurely, died.

"He's a lot stronger than I am," defensive coordinator Brent Venables told *The Oklahoman*.

Lewis was understandably absent from practice after his daughter's passing, but decided returning to be with the team would be best. He then went out and led the Sooners with nine tackles.

"He told me he needed to be here with us. This was his sanctuary," Venables said. "He played hard and was focused. I'm very proud of him."

And so what was **COLORADO** kicker

Jameson Davis' reward for making the first field goal of his career? He got to miss some practice time after sustaining a concussion in the contest against Texas A&M.

Davis had stepped in for Aric Goodman to end a string of seven straight misses for the Buffs.

Colorado starting tailback Rodney Stewart also broke his leg while being illegally tackled by the horse collar and is out for the season. Stewart was on pace to become the top freshman rusher in CU history.

"We're getting our Ph.D in dealing with adversity," coach Dan Hawkins said.

**OKLAHOMA** was not immune to the injury bug, as defensive end Auston English suffered a knee sprain against Nebraska that could leave him sidelined for the remainder of the regular season. The Big 12's preseason defensive player of year also missed much of fall camp after having an appendectomy.

**TEXAS** also suffered more than its first loss at Texas Tech. Wide receiver Quan Cosby injured his back and defensive end Brian Orakpo was on crutches after spraining his left knee.

**IOWA STATE** kick returner Leonard Johnson set a NCAA Division I-A record by amassing 319 yards on nine kickoff returns during the Cyclones' 59-17 loss to Oklahoma State.

"I'm not sure that's a record you're proud to set, but it does show some of the growth we've made in special teams," coach Gene Chizik said.

Nebraska entered its final three regular-season games ranked 11th in the Big 12 on turnover margin (11 turnovers, three takeaways). From those, the Huskers had yielded 41 points (27 Saturday), and gotten just seven in return.



# Justin Baumgartner

6-2, 245, Senior, LS, Cheyenne, Wyo.

Patience. "Before, I was a little bit patient, partially patient, as much as a 19-year-old will be," Justin Baumgartner said. "Now, I'd say I'm a lot more patient because of that situation."

The "situation" to which he referred was the route he took to Nebraska. He began his college career at Chadron (Neb.) State College, where he spent one semester, long-snapping as a true freshman. Then he transferred to Laramie County Community College, where he spent a year and a half, earning his associate's degree. And then he transferred to Nebraska, as a preferred walk-on.

He didn't play football in junior college because there was no football team. And even though he started out at Chadron State, he grew up dreaming of playing at Nebraska. The reason? The first YMCA youth-league tackle-football team on which he played in Cheyenne was nicknamed Huskers.

"It was like 1994-95, that era, when they were winning national championships, so I always wanted to play for them, just because of the program," said Baumgartner, a high school teammate of Cornhusker punter Dan Titchener.

**HI: What do you have on your iPod?**

BAUMGARTNER: A little bit of everything, ranging from classical to rap. I do have some classical on there, not very much but some. But the majority of my music is country and rock.



**HI: What do you think you'll be doing 10 years from now?**

BAUMGARTNER: I imagine I'll be married. I've got an amazing girlfriend now. Then I'll probably be on the family ranch in California, running it with my dad. It's about 2 hours from Monterey, 5 hours from Los Angeles, 7,000 acres, beautiful country. It's a cattle ranch.

**HI: What do specialists do during practice?**

BAUMGARTNER: Me and T.J. (O'Leary) we snap to the quarterbacks so they get live snaps. I think that helps the team out a lot. We're kind of like the jokers on the team, go talk with everybody, kind of keep the mood light, tell jokes, but make sure people are still focused. When our time comes, we lock in, we re-warm up. We're out here like 45 minutes early.



**HI: When you cook for yourself, what's your specialty?**

BAUMGARTNER: Anything you can throw in a microwave. Actually, my specialty would probably be steak, mashed potatoes and some vegetables.

**HI: What's the best city you've ever visited?**

BAUMGARTNER: I haven't been to a whole bunch of them, but Monterey, Calif., was fun. I had a blast there. Also, Jackson, Wyo., beautiful place, right next to Yellowstone.

**HI: If your life were made into a movie, who would you pick to play your character?**

BAUMGARTNER: A lot of people say I act like Marv in Home Alone, that I look like him. But I don't agree. Man, there are a lot of good actors out there. I would be honored if Russell Crowe did mine. He can be intense when he has to be but still he's a light guy, can be a funny guy.

**HI: What's the most recent book you've read?**

BAUMGARTNER: Let me dig back into my memory. I read Flags of Our Fathers. That was an amazing book. I forgot who the author was. I love World War II books.

**HI: If you could spend 30 minutes with a celebrity, in sports or otherwise, who would you pick?**

BAUMGARTNER: I know I'd just want to hang out with them, see what their lifestyle is like. I'd probably pick an NFL long-snapper, just to see what they do. Either that or Joe Montana. I'm a big fan of Joe Montana.

**HI: If someone visited you in Cheyenne, what would you want to show them?**

BAUMGARTNER: I would tell them to come the last week in July, Frontier Days. I would take them to a rodeo, take them to concerts at night. In Cheyenne, though, there's really not a lot to do, maybe go play some golf. That's about all.

**HI: What's your most embarrassing moment on a football field?**

BAUMGARTNER: One time we were stretching with the new staff, doing our shuffle. I didn't pick my foot up high enough, and my cleat caught. There were a ton of army guys here and I ate it hard. My cleat caught, and I tripped. Turf was all up in my face. All those people saw it.

# Jared Hertzel

## Lincoln native keeps Huskers green

Jared Hertzel says that, as a boy, he used to like to tag along with his grandfather, who was an agronomy professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Jared would look on as his grandpa, Richard Mills, did research on various grasses and plants.

At some point, the 26-year-old Hertzel decided to make grasses and plants a way of life. He graduated from UNL in 2006 with a degree in horticulture, with a turf emphasis. During his college years, he worked on the grounds crew at Haymarket Park.

In August, the Lincoln Northeast High School graduate took over as the Huskers' turfgrass manager, meaning he cares for the two football practice fields and basically all varsity playing fields. He says his main challenge is "keeping the grass growing,

especially this time of year (late fall) when growth is slowing."

Perhaps his most busy period comes during August when Nebraska is in the midst of preseason football practice. This past summer, more than 20 of the 28 Husker practices occurred on the grass practice fields, Hertzel says. The fields can become pretty chewed up, he says, so he sometimes will ask coaches to move drills to particular parts of the fields that aren't so chewed up.

"They're usually pretty good about it," he said.

This time of year, Nebraska practices on the grass fields with less frequency.

"I really say thank you to that because the grass isn't going to recuperate like it does when it's 85 degrees and sunny," Hertzel says.



Hertzel also is in charge of maintaining the synthetic Fieldturf playing surface at Memorial Stadium. To that end, you might see Hertzel on a Friday night dragging the field with a broom affixed to a tractor, a method designed to make the field soft and level for the ballgame.

With his degree and background, Hertzel also could work at golf course or perhaps someday maintain a lush playing field in a major league baseball stadium.

"The money's good there, I'm sure, but you'd have a lot of stress to make sure it's perfect," he said.

Plus, it's clear Hertzel really likes what he's doing.

### Catching up with **BY MIKE BABCOCK**

# Kris Van Norman

## Former safety was "part of something special"



Like father, like sons. "My kids are native Texans, but they still wear Nebraska stuff around school," Kris Van Norman said. "They love Nebraska."

"I've tried not to push it on them, but they see some of my stuff around the house. They know where my allegiance is, and I guess that's just kind of normal at their age, anyway – and their mom is also a Nebraska fan, so that helps."

Like mother, like sons. Jeanie Van Norman's grandfather was Norm Carlson, a long-time Cornhusker booster. So it's all in the family, Texas style.

Kris Van Norman still has Nebraska football season tickets, but he isn't able to use them as often as he did before his sons became involved in athletics. Used to be he'd make it to two or three games a season. Now, it's more like one.

Van Norman, the Class B offensive player of the

### KRIS VAN NORMAN

**LETTERS:** 1980-82

**POSITION:** Safety

**CURRENT:** InSite Realty Partners, L.P., commercial real estate, Houston

**WIFE:** Jeanie

**CHILDREN:** Kristopher (14), Drew (12)

year as a running

back as a high school senior in Minden, Neb., earned first-team academic all-conference recognition twice and second-team Academic All-America honors as a senior at Nebraska.

He learned work ethic at Nebraska, and respect for coach Tom Osborne.

"There's not a finer person in the world," he said. "It's funny, you talk to guys who played for other coaches; some have really good things to say about them, and some don't. But I don't know anybody who played anywhere near the generation that I played who has a negative thing to say about Coach Osborne."

"I wasn't able to put it in great perspective because I didn't know what it was like in other programs. But I think we knew we were part of something special."

# RecruitingNotebook

## Limited spots available

BY RICK SHAW

**S**pots are running out for the 2009 Nebraska recruiting class. With 15 pledges already in the books, most project that the Huskers will accept only seven or eight more commitments between now and February.

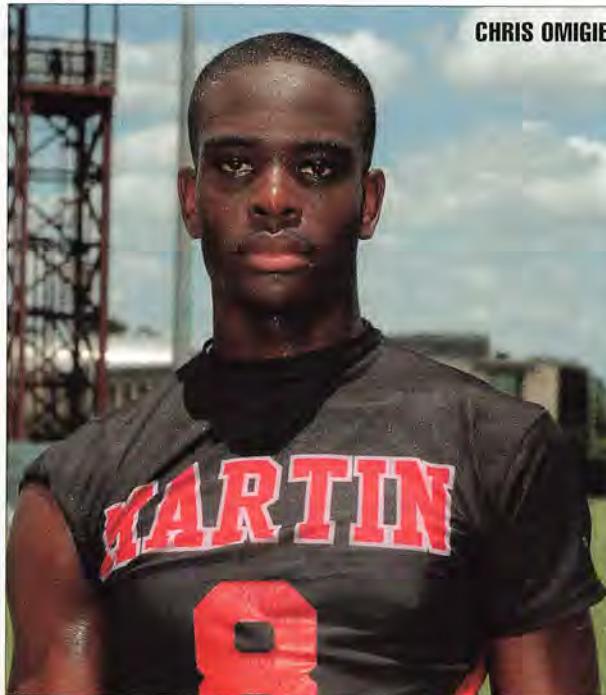
Approximately 20 athletes on the Nebraska recruiting board still show at least a 'medium' level of interest in the Big Red. Most of the remaining available slots will likely be claimed by that group while new names also emerge.

Offensively, Nebraska has already put the finishing touches on their quarterback class. Highly-touted signal caller **CODY GREEN** of Dayton (Texas) jumped on board the Husker commit list back in July. In addition, with the pledges of tight end **J.T. KERR** and four offensive linemen, Nebraska appears to have wrapped up recruiting at those positions as well.

Coach **BO PELINI** and his staff do hope to snag one more running back to pair with big back commit **DONTRAYEVOUS ROBINSON** (6-1, 215 pounds) of Euless (Texas) Trinity. Four-star standout **REX BURKHEAD** (5-11, 190 pounds) seems to be the most likely candidate to grab that spot. If he opts to go elsewhere, expect a couple of new names to quickly emerge.

Nebraska is still looking for its first pledge from a wide receiver prospect and they'll likely look to sign at least two pass-catchers to letters of intent come February.

**BRANDON KINNIE** (6-3, 215 pounds) out of Fort Scott (Kan.) Community College and **ABRECUS MARTINEZ** (6-2, 185 pounds)



CHRIS OMIGIE

out of Rayville (La.) both currently have the Huskers leading for their commitments. Kinnie took his official visit to Lincoln in September while Martinez looks to take his trip to NU after the season.

"I know I'll be visiting Nebraska and Tulsa," Martinez said. "My coach wants to wait until our season is over and then schedule the visits at that time."

"Nebraska is my leader. I like them a bit more than Tulsa right now because they're a bigger school and they play on TV more. I also like what coach 'J.P.' (**JOHN PAPUCHIS**) has been telling me about the academic support in Lincoln. He told me that I'd have tutors available to help me, which is important."

In addition to Tulsa and Nebraska, Martinez also holds a scholarship offer from Colorado. Rated the nation's No. 82 receiver prospect (three-stars) by Rivals.com, Martinez used his size and quickness

(4.4-second 40-yard dash) to tally over 500 yards in receptions through the first seven games this fall.

Two receivers from Texas are also still considering visits to NU. Four-star prospect **EMORY BLAKE** (6-1, 195 pounds) out of Austin has already taken trips to Boston College, Colorado and Texas Tech. The Huskers, along with Missouri, Oregon and others, are among the schools being considered for his remaining trips.

**CHRIS OMIGIE**, a 6-5, 185-pounder out of Martin High in Arlington, recently earned a scholarship offer from the Big Red to go along with existing tenders from Baylor, Kansas, Ole Miss, Purdue, Rice, UTEP and others. Though the Huskers have just recently joined the mix for the tall Texas target, Omigie said he's definitely interested in what the University of Nebraska has to offer.

"They had called and offered about two weeks ago," Omigie said about NU. "I got the offer in the mail last week. They had been recruiting me and I thought that they would be offering me, but when they did...I was shocked. I didn't know what to say."

"Coach (**TIM BECK**) is the only Nebraska coach I've talked to so far. He's really cool, straight forward and he's not telling me lies. He was straight forward about how they need a receiver but not about how I'm going to start. It was about how I have a good chance to play as a freshman and I can make an impact to the team my freshman year."

Rated a three-star prospect by Rivals.com,

Omigie has already hauled in 40 catches for 690 yards and five touchdowns this season.

On defense, the Huskers still have five legitimate options to draw from on the defensive line. Four-star defensive tackles **LATU HEIMULI** (6-3, 305 pounds) and **COREY ADAMS** (6-3, 280 pounds) of Scottsdale (Ariz.) Saguaro have already visited Lincoln as has four-star end **KEENAN GRAHAM** (6-3, 220 pounds) of Las Vegas (Nev.) Silverado. Euless (Texas) Trinity tackle **SIOSAIA TUIPULOTU** (6-2, 285 pounds) also lists Nebraska high atop his list of favorites.

**WILLIAM SUTTON**, a 6-0, 248-pound tackle out of Corona (Calif.) Centennial also hopes to be visiting Nebraska soon. Rated the nation's No. 50 defensive tackle prospect by Rivals (three-stars), he's also considering overtures from Arizona State, Colorado State, San Diego State, UNLV, Fresno State, Nevada and Boise State.

"I'm trying to get up to Lincoln for the Kansas game with my teammate **TAYLOR MARTINEZ** who is already committed to Nebraska," Sutton said. "I definitely want to visit Fresno State, Arizona State and Nebraska before making any kind of decision."

At linebacker,

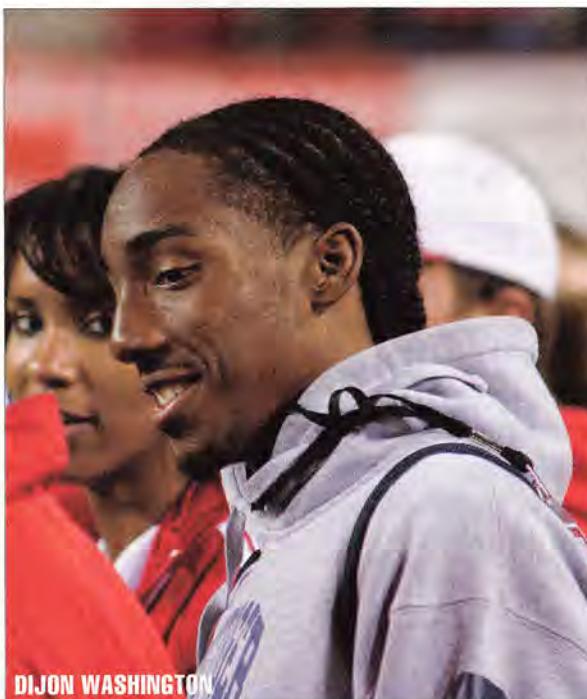
Nebraska hopes to add, at least, one more prospect to their commit list. The top candidates to claim that last slot include **ERIC MARTIN** of Moreno Valley (Calif.) Rancho Verde, **CORDARIUS GOLSTON** of Lancaster (Texas) and **DARIUS MOFFETT** of Chicago (Ill.) Hubbard.

"Illinois has the edge right now," Moffett said, "but Nebraska is talking a good game. I've talked to both their linebacker's coach

(**MIKE EKELER**) and defensive coordinator (**CARL PELINI**). They said they are in need of some linebackers down there and they want me to come in and play on the outside for them. I want to see what they're all about."

Moffett is ranked the nation's No. 49 inside linebacker prospect (three-stars) by Rivals.

Several defensive backs still remain as possibilities to join the Big Red recruiting class including cornerbacks **ANDREW GREEN** of San Antonio (Texas) James Madison, **JOSHUA BROWN** of Lancaster (Texas) and **ANTHONY CARPENTER** of Gardena (Calif.) Junipero Serra. At safety, California athletes **DIJON WASHINGTON** of



**DIJON WASHINGTON**

Lawndale Leuzinger and **LESTER WHITE** of North High in Riverside both consider the Huskers among their top college choices as does **ALEX LOGAN** of Denver (Colo.) Mullen.

The Huskers have only a few spots left to fill in their 2009 recruiting class. With a number of prospects still interested, Nebraska shouldn't have a problem finishing their class off strong. **N**

## COMMITTED



### PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The future – that's exactly what future Nebraska offensive lineman **JEREMIAH SIRLES** is all about.

Whether it's finishing out his senior season in high school with a state championship or helping Nebraska get back to national prominence, the Lakewood (Colo.) Bear Creek lineman is ready to be a part of something special. That's exactly where the excitement starts when he thinks about the future of the Huskers.

"It comes from being up there and seeing where the program was a year ago," Sirles said. "That is seeing the tradition ... I talked to the players and how they tell me how much more they're excited now than they were a year ago. I think they're improvement from the beginning of the year to now is night and day."

Sirles says that he's had his eye on NU. He's had his eye on his future school despite pushing as hard as possible through regular season where he didn't allow a single sack in a quest for bringing a state title to Bear Creek.

That's where his excitement begins. "There will always be the powerhouses," he said. "I believe in this recruiting class and the years to come. I'm excited to be playing for Nebraska who I think will become a power. All of these guys see the same thing that I see. They see that Nebraska is on its way up and that let's be part of rebuilding the tradition, and the foundation to win national titles again."

by **John Talman**, Recruiting Publisher

HuskersIllustrated.com

# RecruitingNotebook

## Who's next on defense?

by Sean Stevens

The 2009 recruiting class is taking shape for Nebraska, but there is still some work to do. With seven of the 15 oral commitments listed as defensive players, NU still plans to fill out their class with some additional future Blackshirts.

The current defensive commits consist of three defensive linemen, two linebackers, one cornerback and one athlete slated for safety. What's next for this year's class?

Nebraska is in strong position with two defensive tackles – **LATU HEIMULI** (6-3/296/4-stars) of Salt Lake City, Utah and **SIOSAIA**

**TUIPULOTU** (6-2/285/3-stars) of Euless, Texas.

Heimuli has made visits to Nebraska, Arizona and Washington State, and is also considering home-state BYU and Colorado. Prior to his fourth visit (Colorado), Heimuli talked about his priorities in choosing a college.

"I'd probably say right now it's Arizona, Nebraska and BYU - not in any order. First of all, I'm looking at the academics. Secondly is probably the athletics, and how my relationship is with the coaches and players, and how I see



LATU HEIMULI

myself fitting in there."

Heimuli listed Nebraska's academics and Arizona's athletics as the best he's seen in each area.

After his September trip to Lincoln (with teammate and NU pledge **DONTRAYEVIOUS ROBINSON**) Tuipulotu was leaning towards NU.

"Right now, they're No. 1 on my list," Tuipulotu said. "I just liked everything. I mean it was just unbelievable... I talked to a lot of players about how this is the place to be."

He plans to visit Louisville, Utah and UNLV before announcing his decision.

## SIDELINES

### HELP ON THE CORNERS

At cornerback, **ANDREW GREEN**

(6-0/181/3-star) of San Antonio, Texas, has had NU high on his list since a September visit. His relationship with NU tight ends coach **RON BROWN** has made Green feel comfortable with the Huskers.

"I know coach Brown is very deep in his spirituality as I am," Green said. "The thing I respect about him is that he's open and honest with me about his beliefs but he doesn't use that to try and make me go there (Nebraska). He's just being real."

Green has visited Iowa State and will also trip to Missouri.

### SAFETY IN NUMBERS

**ALEX LOGAN** (6-2/195/3-star) of Denver, Colo., and **LESTER WHITE** (6-2/210/3-star) of Riverside, Calif., are the most likely options at safety.

Logan has visited Arizona State, Nebraska, California and Oregon and will take one more trip to either Washington or Colorado. After his Oregon visit, Logan was still undecided.

"I don't really have one leader right now. I still have to sit down and talk with my parents," he said. "I still have a top six of Arizona State, Cal, Oregon, Nebraska, Washington and (Colorado)."

White has yet to take an official visit, but that hasn't stopped the Huskers from moving slightly ahead of Arizona State, Boise State, Oregon State and Washington State.

"Really, all of the schools that have offered me are pretty much even right now. I just know Nebraska is a little bit in front. The rest are pretty much the same."

White plans to visit Nebraska for the Kansas game, Nov. 8.

## 2009 Nebraska Commitment List (15)

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown (High School)
Nick Ash	OL	6-5	261	Keller, Texas (Keller)
Shawn Bodtmann	OLB	6-0	205	Scranton, Pa. (West Scranton)
DeAndre Byrd	CB	5-10	170	Tallahassee, Fla. (Lincoln)
Jess Coffey	OL	6-7	270	Denton, Texas (Guyer)
Emerson Evans	DE	6-1	230	Houston, Texas (Alief Taylor)
Cody Green	QB	6-4	220	Dayton, Texas (Dayton)
J.T. Kerr	TE	6-4	230	Corona, Calif. (Scripps Ranch)
Taylor Martinez	ATH	6-0	176	Corona, Calif. (Centennial)
Cole Pensick	DL	6-2	250	Lincoln, Neb. (Northeast)
Thaddeus Randle	DL	6-1	255	Galena Park, Texas (North Shore)
Dontrayevous Robinson	RB	6-1	215	Euless, Texas (Trinity)
Jeremia Sirles	OL	6-6	280	Lakewood, Colo. (Bear Creek)
Brent Qvale	OL	6-7	300	Williston, N.D. (Williston)
Chris Williams	LB	6-0	230	Abilene, Texas (Abilene)
C.J. Zimmerer	FB	6-0	213	Omaha, Neb. (Omaha Gross)



ROY HELU, JR. LEAPS OVER  
A KANSAS DEFENDER IN THE  
FOURTH QUARTER.

KANSAS 35  
NEBRASKA 45

# Potter's pick paves path

**T**akeaways have been difficult to come by for Nebraska's defense this season.

Entering their meeting with Kansas, the Cornhuskers had created just one turnover per game.

While Nebraska was only able to match its season average, its lone takeaway loomed large in a 45-35 victory over the Jayhawks.

Leading 38-28 after Joe Ganz's 2-yard touchdown pass to part-time fullback Ndamukong Suh, Zach Potter helped provide Nebraska some breathing room as he intercepted Kansas quarterback Todd Reesing, giving the Huskers possession at the Jayhawks' 22-yard line with 5:52 remaining.

"If the back would've flared, I was supposed to take him and otherwise I was supposed to get a pass rush," Potter said. "But I didn't feel I would've been able to convert into a pass rush, so I just kind of came back and read his eyes."

"I jumped earlier on the play before he threw it and then he threw it and just threw it right to me."

Nebraska made the most of its lone takeaway, scoring seven plays later on Ganz's 14-yard TD pass to Nate Swift. That gave the Huskers a 45-28 lead with 3:48 to play.

Potter's interception was a team-leading second of the season. That's a fact Potter joked that he hasn't let escape the attention of Nebraska's linebackers and defensive backs.

"I was giving the defensive backs some grief after the game that I have more interceptions than them and I lead the team now," Potter said. "Then, Anthony West missed that one, so I had to go tell him, 'Nice catch.'"



Zach Potter grabbed his team-leading second interception at a key point against Kansas.

Potter, however, showed excellent hands in coming up with his pick.

"We need to create more turnovers each and every game," Potter said. "We need defensive backs and linebackers to keep doing well in their coverage and to get some interceptions, but it's always good for a D-lineman to get an interception."

Potter's play highlighted a standout day

for the defensive line. Nebraska's starting front four of Potter, Ndamukong Suh, Ty Steinkuhler and Pierre Allen combined for 28 tackles, including five sacks.

"Their D-line was great," Kansas receiver Dezmon Briscoe said. "They dominated our O-line today — just to tell it like it is." **N**

— by Terry Douglass

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

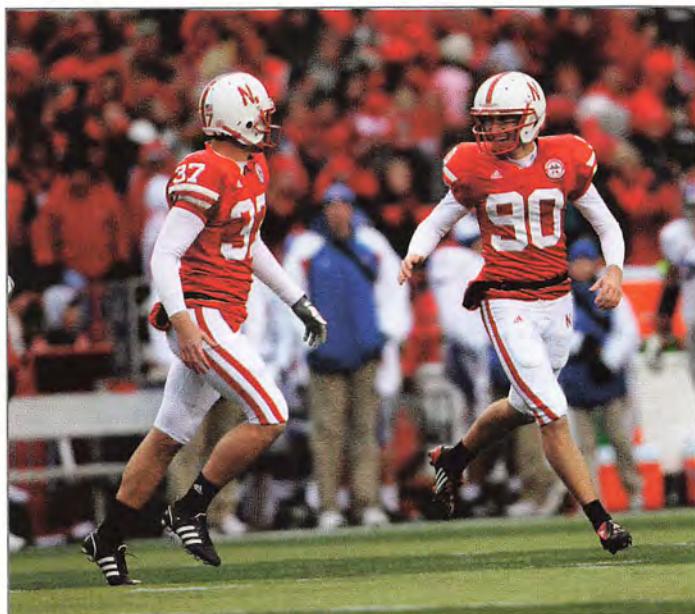


PHOTOS BY SCOTT BRUHN

Nate Swift stiff arms Darrell Stuckey in the third quarter.



Roy Helu Jr. celebrates one of his two second half touchdowns.



Alex Henery celebrates after converting a first down on a fake field goal.

## REPORT CARD

### RUSHING:

**B+**

With starting I-back Marlon Lucky still nicked up, it appears Roy Helu Jr. is finding his rhythm as he recorded his second consecutive 100-yard rushing game with 115 yards and two TDs. Nebraska averaged 4.8 yards per attempt.

### PASSING:

**A**

Only an interception late in the first half denied an A-plus performance. Joe Ganz completed 28 of 37 attempts for 324 yards and three TDs, also making good use of his check-down receivers. Lucky added a scoring pass out of the "Joker" set.

### RUSHING DEFENSE:

**A-**

The Huskers controlled the line of scrimmage, holding Jake Sharp to 90 yards. Five sacks for 42 yards in losses aided Nebraska's final numbers as Kansas averaged 3 yards per rush, but did have 170 yards in gains.

### PASSING DEFENSE:

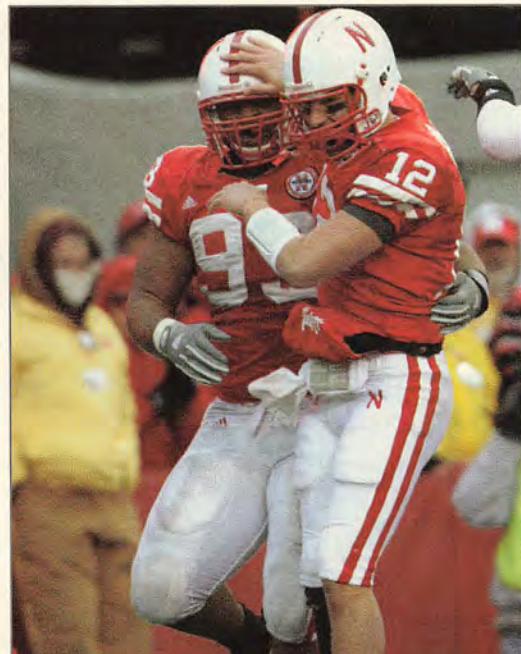
**C+**

Missed tackles hurt as Kansas QB Todd Reesing turned 15 completions into 304 yards and three TDs. On the plus side, the Huskers' front four applied consistent pressure (five sacks and two hurries) and DE Zach Potter recorded an interception.

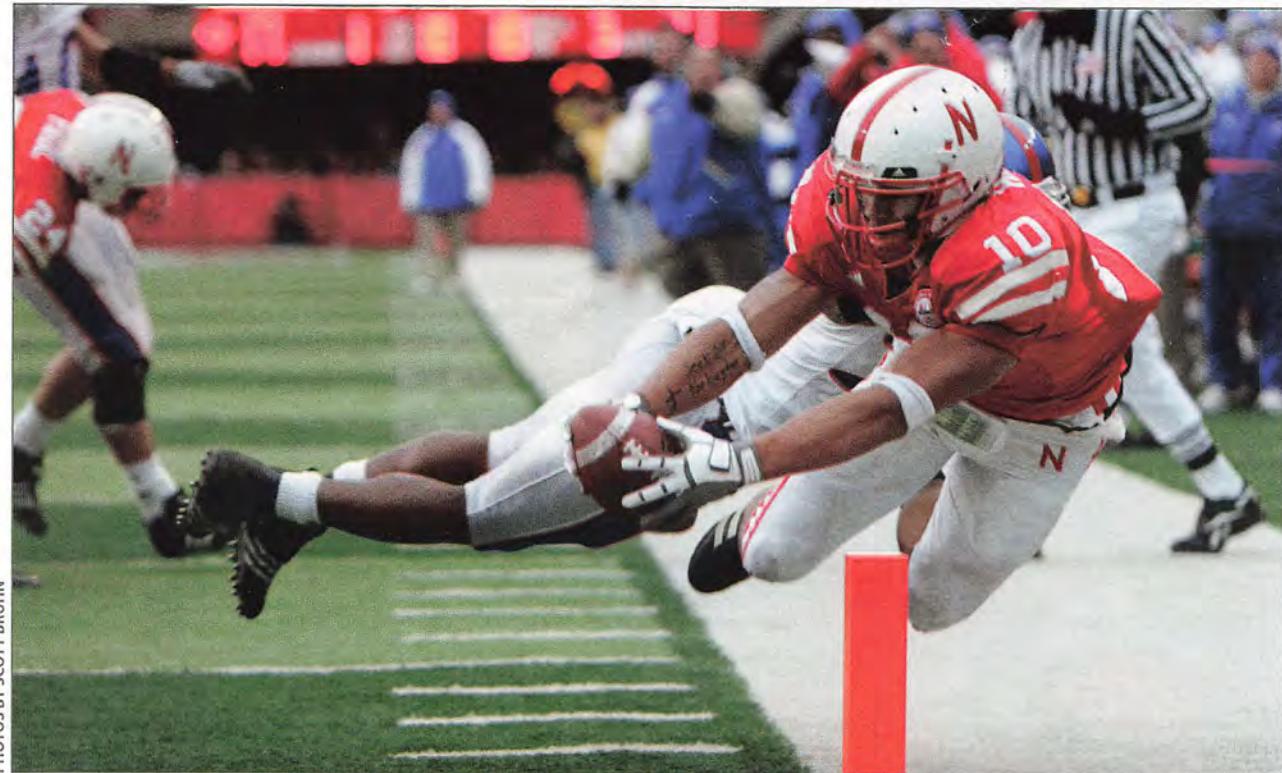
### KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS:

**B-**

Kickoff coverage was improved, while Dan Titchener (46-yard punt average) and Alex Henery (35-yard field) performed well in windy conditions. The field-goal fake for Henery's first-down run was classic, but KU's successful on-side kick kept things interesting to the end.



Ndamukong Suh and Joe Ganz celebrate after Suh caught a two-yard touchdown pass.



PHOTOS BY SCOTT BRUHN

## BIG DAY FOR ROY

Sophomore I-back **ROY HELU, JR.** came off the bench to carry 16 times for 115 yards and two touchdowns, 67 seconds apart. The second came on a 52-yard run in the first minute of the fourth quarter to give the Cornhuskers a 31-21 lead. "That was huge, for me, for the whole offense, not having to do anything but one play, go out there and put seven points on the board."

Helu, Jr. also carried 16 times for 157 yards and a touchdown the previous game at Oklahoma. "He got hot. He made some plays," coach **BO PELINI** said. "Obviously, Roy had a big game for us."

### CAREER DAY

Junior defensive tackle **NDAMUKONG SUH** had career highs with 12 tackles and 2.5 sacks to lead the Cornhuskers. He also caught a touchdown pass, the

first touchdown patch of his career. The touchdown wasn't the first of his career, however. He intercepted a pass and returned it 49 yards for a touchdown against San Jose State. So which does he prefer, scoring a touchdown or sacking the quarterback?

"Sack," Suh said without hesitation, "that's my job."

### BOWL ELIGIBLE

With a sixth victory, the Cornhuskers are bowl eligible, after not playing in a bowl game in two of four seasons under **BILL CALLAHAN**. However, being bowl eligible "won't change our sense of urgency," said quarterback **JOE GANZ**. "It gets that load off our back a little bit, I guess you could say, but we still need that sense of urgency and purpose."

### FIGHT TO STAY IN

Quarterback **JOE GANZ** was banged up but refused to come out of the game despite being banged up, with what he said were a "lower heel and Achilles" problem and "twisted knee." Coach **BO PELINI** was asked if he considered taking Ganz out of the game at any point. "If I wanted to fight him on the sideline," Pelini said. "He would have fought me before he let me take him out."

Before another question could be asked, Pelini added: "I would have won (a fight.)"

Ganz was asked if he would have fought to stay in the game. "Absolutely," he said.

He was told what Pelini had said about winning such a fight. "I don't think so," said Ganz. "I've got 113 other guys on my side, so . . ."

### LUCKY HOBBLED

Starting I-back **MARLON LUCKY** "got



**TOUCHDOWN, BROOKS** - Junior wide receiver **CHRIS BROOKS** went into the game with two career receptions, a 4-yarder against Nevada in 2007 and a 2-yarder against Oklahoma the week before the Kansas game. He had one catch against the Jayhawks, good for 25 yards and Nebraska's second touchdown.

Brooks got an opportunity with junior **MENELIK HOLT** sidelined by injury.

"It reminded me of high school when I used to score them a lot," said Brooks. "It felt really good, especially to get a win over Kansas. It's a great feeling to get in the end zone."

tweaked a little bit early in the game," said coach **BO PELINI**. "We probably shouldn't have put him back in there."

Offensive guard **KEITH WILLIAMS** was injured in the second half, though Pelini said he didn't think the injury was serious. "We got nicked up a little bit," he said.

Middle linebacker **PHILLIP DILLARD**, offensive tackle **LYDON MURTHA** and wide receiver **MENELIK HOLT** were among the regulars who didn't play because of injuries.

## CLOSING IN

**JOE GANZ** is closing in on Nebraska's single-season record for passing yardage. He passed – no pun intended – **ZAC TAYLOR**'s total of 2,653 yards in 2005 and now is second to Taylor's 3,197 yards in 2006. Ganz has passed for 2,833 yards this season.

## RIGHT PLACE, RIGHT TIME

After the Cornhuskers took a 24-21 lead with 9 seconds remaining in the third quarter, Kansas tried to respond by mounting a drive.

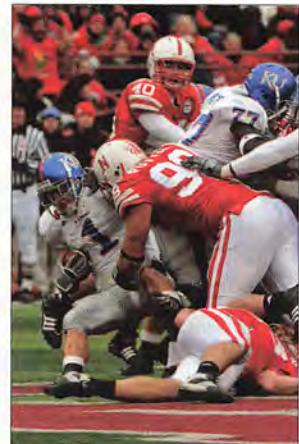
On the first play from scrimmage in the fourth quarter, second-and-1 at their own 32-yard line, the Jayhawks tried to run a reverse with wide receiver Kerry Meier. But Nebraska linebacker **TYLER WORTMAN** dropped Meier for a 7-yard loss.

"They just caught us in a good call," Kansas coach Mark Mangino said. "We thought that if that linebacker doesn't come over the top, their whole defense is into the boundary and we've got a big play. But credit to him (Wortman), he made a good football play."

## BETWEEN THE TACKLES

Kansas, which managed only 118 rushing yards on 39 carries, had difficulty running inside the tackles. "I wasn't surprised," said Jayhawk coach Mark Mangino. "Their defensive line is probably the strongest part of their football team. They're very good; anyone that's played them knows that. We needed to be able to get some runs on the inside, take some pressure off the quarterback in the pocket, and we were not able to do that."

## QUICKLY



### THE BEAT GOES ON

Kansas has not won in Lincoln since Nov. 9, 1968, 20 consecutive losses. Cornhusker coach **BO**

**PELINI** was not yet a year old when the Jayhawks defeated Nebraska 12-0 in a Homecoming game.

### BO'S RESPECT

Kansas quarterback Todd Reesing, a junior, completed 15-of-30 passes for 304 yards and three touchdowns with one interception. He also carried 16 times for a net of 35 yards. He was sacked five times. He earned the respect of Cornhusker coach **BO PELINI**. "He's a senior, right?" said Pelini. "He's a junior? I hope he goes out (to the NFL). He's a heckuva a player."

### CAPTAINS

Nebraska's captains were: senior wide receiver **TODD PETERSON**, senior quarterback **JOE GANZ**, senior offensive guard **MATT SLAUSON** and junior defensive tackle **NDAMUKONG SUH**.

# GameStats

## SUMMARY

### SCORING

Nov. 8, 2008  
Memorial Stadium - Lincoln, Neb.  
Attendance: 85,486

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Tot
Kansas	7	7	7	14	35
Nebraska	7	7	10	21	45

	KU	NU	
<b>First Quarter</b>			
NU	McNeill Pass from Lucky 4-yards (Henery Kick) 04:47 Drive: 8 plays 80 yds 3:57	0	7
<b>Second Quarter</b>			
KU	Meier Pass from Reesing 28-yards (Branstetter Kick) 03:17 Drive: 4 plays 87 yds 1:27	7	7
<b>Third Quarter</b>			
NU	Brooks Pass from Ganz 25-yards (Henery Kick) 02:17 Drive: 8 plays 67 yds 2:20	14	14
<b>Fourth Quarter</b>			
NU	Henery 35-yard Field Goal 08:31 Drive: 8 plays 25 yds 4:14	14	17
KU	Fields Pass from Reesing 11-yards (Branstetter Kick) 04:32 Drive: 4 plays 20 yds 1:28	21	17
NU	Helu Jr. 10-yard Run (Henery Kick) 00:08 Drive: 8 plays 78 yds 4:19	21	24
NU	Helu Jr. 52-yard Run (Henery Kick) 14:01 Drive: 1 plays 52 yds 0:09	21	31
KU	Sharp 7-yard Run (Branstetter Kick) 09:55 Drive: 9 plays 80 yds 4:06	28	31
NU	Suh Pass from Ganz 2-yards (Henery Kick) 05:58 Drive: 7 plays 56 yds 3:52	28	38
NU	Swift Pass from Ganz 14-yards (Henery Kick) 03:48 Drive: 7 plays 22 yds 2:04	28	45
KU	Reesing 14-yard Run (Branstetter Kick) 02:15 Drive: 9 plays 75 yds 1:28	35	45

### TEAM STATS

	KU	NU
Total First Downs .....	22	24
Rushing.....	.8	8
Passing .....	13	16
Penalty.....	.1	0
Rushing Attempts .....	39	35
Yards Gained Rushing .....	170	207
Yards Lost Rushing .....	52	40
Net Yards Rushing .....	118	167
Net Yards Passing .....	304	328
Passes Attempted .....	30	38
Passes Completed .....	15	29
Had Intercepted .....	.1	1
Percent Completion .....	50.0%	76.3%
Yards per Attempt .....	10.1	8.6
Yards per Completion .....	20.3	11.3
Total Offensive Plays .....	69	73
Total Net Yards .....	422	495
Avg. Gain Per Play .....	6.1	6.8
Fumbles: No-Lost .....	1-0	4-2
Penalties: No-Yards .....	5-31	4-30
Punts: No-Yards .....	7-255	2-92
Avg. Per Punt .....	36.4	46.0
Avg. Net Punt .....	23.7	37.0
Punt Returns: No-Yards .....	1-18	5-89
Kickoff Returns: No-Yards .....	6-89	4-59
Interception Returns: No-Yards .....	1-5	1-0
Fumble Returns: No-Yards .....	0-0	0-0
Miscellaneous Yards .....	.0	0
Possession Time .....	25:14	34:46
Third-Down Conversions .....	3-12	6-14
Percentage .....	25.0%	42.9%
Fourth-Down Conversions .....	0-1	2-3
Percentage .....	0.0%	66.7%
Sacks By: No-Yards .....	2-23	5-42

### OFFENSIVE INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

NEBRASKA							KANSAS										
Rushing	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg	Rushing	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg				
Helu Jr.	16	121	6	115	7.2	2	52	Sharp	22	93	3	90	4.1				
Castille	5	49	0	49	9.8	0	18	Reesing	16	77	42	35	2.2				
Henery	1	9	0	9	9.0	0	9	Meier	1	0	7	7	1.0				
Lucky	6	13	6	7	1.2	0	5	<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>3.0</b>				
Ganz	4	15	23	-8	-2.0	0	8										
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>52</b>										
Passing	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg	Passing	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds				
Ganz	37	28	75.7	1	324	3	27	Reesing	30	15	50.0	1	304				
Lucky	1	1	100.0	0	4	1	4	<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>53</b>				
Receiving	No			Yds	TD	Lg		Receiving	No			Yds	TD				
Swift	7			111	1	24		Briscoe	6			176	1				
Peterson	5			72	0	27		Meier	3			52	28				
Helu Jr.	8			61	0	17		Wilson	3			51	29				
McNeill	4			37	1	18		Sharp	2			14	17				
Brooks	1			25	0	25		Fields	1			11	11				
Castille	1			17	0	17		<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>304</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>53</b>				
Lucky	2			3	0	7											
Suh	1			2	1	2											
Punting	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In 20	Punting	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In 20
Titchener	2	46.0	49	0	0	0	0		Rojas	7	36.4	48	0	0	0	0	1

### HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED BOWL PREDICTIONS

TV/DATE/TIME	BOWL	BIG 12 TEAM	POSSIBLE OPPONENT
BCS TITLE GAME			ALABAMA
FIESTA			UTAH
COTTON			LSU
HOLIDAY			OREGON
ALAMO			IOWA
SUN			ARIZONA/ OREGON STATE/ CAL
INDEPENDENCE			MINNESOTA/ WISCONSIN/ NORTHWESTERN
TEXAS			KENTUCKY
			RICE

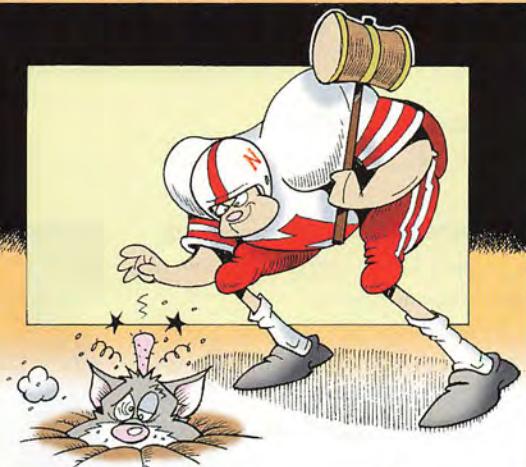
The Gator Bowl has the option of selecting a Big 12 team prior to the Alamo Bowl's selection. Our predictions assume the Gator Bowl will take a 7-5 Notre Dame team over a Big 12 team. These projections also assume that Colorado and Kansas State become bowl eligible. If they don't the Big 12 may not fill all of its bowl spots. We will update our predictions in the next issue.

## 2008 NEBRASKA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Sat., Aug. 30	Western Michigan	Memorial Stadium	W, 47-24
Sat., Sept. 6	San Jose State	Memorial Stadium	W, 35-12
Sat., Sept. 13	New Mexico State	Memorial Stadium	W, 38-7
Sat., Sept. 27	Virginia Tech	Memorial Stadium	L, 30-35
Sat., Oct. 4	#4/3 Missouri	Memorial Stadium	L, 17-52
Sat., Oct. 11	#7 Texas Tech	at Lubbock, Texas	L, 31-37 (OT)
Sat., Oct. 18	Iowa State	at Ames, Iowa	W, 35-7
Sat., Oct. 25	Baylor	Memorial Stadium	W, 32-20
Sat., Nov. 1	Oklahoma	at Norman, Okla.	L, 28-62
Sat., Nov. 8	Kansas	Memorial Stadium	W, 45-35
Sat., Nov. 15	Kansas State	at Manhattan, Kan.	2:35 p.m. (PPV)
Fri., Nov. 28	Colorado	Memorial Stadium	2:30 p.m. (ABC)
Sat., Dec. 6	Big 12 Championship	at Kansas City, Mo. (Arrowhead Stadium)	7 p.m. (ABC)

## THE PAUL FELL PREDICTION

# NEBRASKA vs. KANSAS STATE



NOVEMBER 15, 2008

PURPLE PRIDE TAKES A POUNDING WHEN HUSKERS PAY A FRIENDLY VISIT TO WILDCAT LAIR!

## FAN OF THE GAME



Alva Smith, 88, Fairmont, Neb., was honored along with other World War II veterans at Memorial Stadium during the Kansas game. Smith sign up in 1942 with the Army Air Corp and served as a crew chief on a B-26 in England and France.

## THIS WEEK'S PICKS

### AARON BABCOCK, Editor

Last Week: (4-1) Season: (38-11)

Nebraska at Kansas State NU 49-24  
Texas at Kansas UT 55-28  
Texas A&M at Baylor BU 31-17  
Missouri at Iowa State MU 55-20  
Oklahoma State at Colorado OSU 52-17

### MIKE BABCOCK, Contributing Editor

Last Week: (4-1) Season: (40-9)

Nebraska at Kansas State NU 42-38  
Texas at Kansas UT 49-31  
Texas A&M at Baylor BU 35-17  
Missouri at Iowa State MU 42-10  
Oklahoma State at Colorado OSU 44-13

### TERRY DOUGLASS, Grand Island Independent

Last Week: (4-1) Season: (39-10)

Nebraska at Kansas State NU 52-37  
Texas at Kansas UT 47-21  
Texas A&M at Baylor BU 21-20  
Missouri at Iowa State MU 48-10  
Oklahoma State at Colorado OSU 56-13

### MATT DAVISON, Husker Sports Network

Last Week: (4-1) Season: (40-9)

Nebraska at Kansas State NU 42-30  
Texas at Kansas UT 41-27  
Texas A&M at Baylor BU 34-21  
Missouri at Iowa State MU 45-17  
Oklahoma State at Colorado OSU 45-24

### SEAN CALLAHAN, HuskersIllustrated.com

Last Week: (5-0) Season: (36-8)

Nebraska at Kansas State NU 41-27  
Texas at Kansas UT 38-33  
Texas A&M at Baylor BU 37-27  
Missouri at Iowa State MU 52-24  
Oklahoma State at Colorado OSU 45-21

# Campbell climbs from scout team to All-Big 12

BY STEVEN M. SIPPLE

**IAN CAMPBELL'S WORK** ethic carried him to heights at Kansas State that most walk-ons can only dream about.

A two-time All-Big 12 selection, Campbell this season led the Wildcats with four-and-a-half sacks through nine games.

"I think Ian Campbell represents a lot of kids who grew up in this state who want to be able to play big-time college football but aren't necessarily highly recruited," Kansas State head coach Ron Prince said. "He was tall and lanky, from what I understand, when he came here in 2004. But he did his time on the scout team and worked hard."

Prince took over as Kansas State's head coach in December of 2005. During the 2005 season, Campbell, a native of Cimarron, Kan., had appeared in 10 games and made seven tackles. However, Prince said, Wildcat coaches felt Campbell "was ready to take the next step. We put him on scholarship and he hasn't disappointed at all. He plays with a tremendous motor."

Indeed, the 6-5, 255-pound Campbell enjoyed a breakout season in 2006, finishing third on the team in total tackles with 67 while leading the Wildcats in both tackles for loss (17.5) and sacks (11.5).

"I think he's developed to where he's now the guy people focus on and slide their protection to or game-plan for," Prince said.

"But I think Ian's biggest contribution right now is the fact he's been able to block two kicks this year. What we do in the kicking game is very important to us and really the foundation of where we start with things."

Kansas State took a record of 4-5 overall and 1-4 in the Big 12 into a Nov. 8 game at Missouri. The Wildcats' defense has struggled mightily.

"I think the thing for us is, we really haven't been able to control the line of scrimmage," Prince said. "When it comes to the run, we've been very inconsistent."



IAN CAMPBELL

## SERIES NOTE

Joe Ganz threw for 510 yards and seven touchdowns to set school records, and Nebraska ended a five-game losing streak with a 73-31 dismantling of Kansas State last Nov. 10 in Lincoln, Neb.

"I didn't think about the score," former Husker coach Bill Callahan told reporters afterward. "We just kept playing."

Nebraska's 73 points were the most in the NU-KSU series history.

The Huskers bounced back from a 76-39 humiliation at Kansas the previous week with their highest point total since Tom Osborne's unbeaten 1997 national championship team hammered Iowa State 77-14.

"The guys are just sick of hearing about how bad we are, and we just came out and unleashed it," Ganz told reporters.

## KANSAS STATE QUICK FACTS

**Head coach:** Ron Prince (16-18 in three-plus seasons, all at KSU).

**Enrollment:** 23,137

**Colors:** Purple and White

**2007 record:** 5-7 (3-5 Big 12)

**Starters returning/lost:** 14/11

**Series record:** Nebraska leads 75-15-2

## 2008 SCHEDULE

8/30	North Texas, W, 45-6
9/6	Montana State, W, 69-10
9/17	at Louisville, L, 38-29
9/27	UL-Lafayette, W, 45-37
10/4	Texas Tech, L, 58-28
10/11	at Texas A&M, W, 44-30
10/18	at Colorado, L, 14-13
10/25	Oklahoma, L, 58-35
11/1	Kansas, L, 52-21
11/8	at Missouri
11/15	Nebraska
11/22	Iowa State

## KANSAS STATE ROSTER

#	QUARTERBACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
1	Josh Freeman	QB	6-6	250	Jr.
2	Tyson Hartman	QB	6-3	204	Jr.
3	Bobby Hauber	QB	6-3	180	Fr.
10	Joseph Kassanavoid	QB	6-4	226	Fr.
12	Collin Klein	QB	6-5	211	Fr.
14	Carson Coffman	QB	6-3	208	So.
15	Trey Scott	QB	6-2	195	Fr.
18	Milton McPeek	QB	6-4	200	Fr.

#	OFFENSIVE LINE	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
42	Corey Adams	LS	6-4	242	So.
54	Trevor Viers	OL	6-5	284	Jr.
59	Zach Kendall	OL	6-3	287	So.
61	Edward Prince	OL	6-5	289	Jr.
63	Penisini Liu	OL	6-6	282	Sr.
64	Nick Stringer	OL	6-6	271	Jr.
66	Eric Benoit	OL	6-4	286	Jr.
67	Kenneth Mayfield	OL	6-4	311	So.
70	Zach Hanson	OL	6-8	320	So.
71	Ethan Douglas	OL	6-6	308	Fr.
72	Kaleb Dringern	OL	6-7	270	Fr.
73	Gerard Spearxth	OL	6-6	284	Jr.
74	Wade Weibert	OL	6-4	287	Jr.
75	Clyde Aufner	OL	6-7	288	Fr.
76	Brock Unruh	OL	6-6	288	Jr.
77	Colten Freeze	OL	6-5	287	Fr.
78	Alesana Alesana	OL	6-4	304	Sr.
79	Jordan Bedore	OL	6-3	310	Sr.

#	RUNNING BACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
21	Frank Delarue	RB	5-8	191	Fr.
25	Keithen Valentine	RB	5-8	197	Jr.
26	Jarell Childs	RB	6-1	217	Jr.
28	Logan Dold	RB	6-0	195	Fr.
34	Dee Bell	RB	5-8	169	Fr.
35	Justin Woods	RB	5-8	166	Jr.
40	Rodney Kenner	RB	5-10	202	Fr.

#	RECEIVERS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
41	Jayson Cuba	TE	6-2	240	Fr.
46	Brent Draper	TE	6-4	230	Sr.
47	Gabe Gantz	TE	6-6	252	So.
48	Darrin Seiwert	TE	5-11	223	Sr.
80	Brett Alstatt	TE	6-4	230	Sr.
85	Jeron Mastrud	TE	6-6	253	Jr.
5	Ernie Pierce	WR	6-4	209	Sr.
7	Lamark Brown	WR	6-3	225	So.
8	Cameron Morrison	WR	5-11	204	Jr.
13	Jordan Daniels	WR	5-10	175	Jr.
20	Russell Simons	WR	6-1	206	Fr.
23	Steven Walters	WR	6-2	190	Fr.
24	Stephen Harrison	WR	5-11	179	So.
29	John Tylla	WR	6-1	187	Jr.
81	Attrail Snipes	WR	6-1	180	Jr.
82	Adrian Hilburn	WR	6-1	195	Jr.
83	Brandon Banks	WR	5-7	142	Jr.
84	Matt Wykes	WR	6-2	209	Jr.
87	Deon Murphy	WR	5-10	170	Jr.
89	Aubrey Quarles	WR	5-11	195	Jr.

#	DEFENSIVE LINE	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
57	Pete Yemm	DE	6-3	252	Sr.
90	Eric Childs	DE	6-3	238	Jr.
94	Raphael Guidry	DE	6-4	267	Fr.
96	Payton Kirk	DE	6-6	245	Fr.
98	Ian Campbell	DE	6-5	255	Sr.
99	Brandon Harold	DE	6-6	264	Fr.
54	Dustin Sobieraj	DL	6-3	255	Fr.
52	Xzavier Stewart	DT	6-1	316	So.
55	Vlad Faustin	DT	6-2	253	Sr.
77	Daniel Calvin	DT	6-3	310	Jr.
92	Brandon Balkcom	DT	6-1	292	Sr.
93	Gabriel Crews	DT	6-1	310	So.

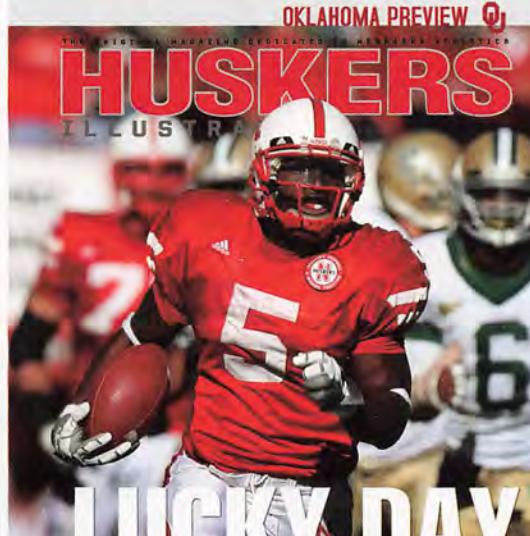
#	DEFENSIVE BACKS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
3	Billy McClellan	DB	5-8	164	Jr.
4	Joshua Moore	DB	5-11	184	So.
6	Blair Irvin	DB	6-0	180	Jr.
8	Cedric Wilson	DB	6-1	195	Sr.
13	Adrian Stryker	DB	6-1	206	Jr.
20	Courtney Herndon	DB	6-0	211	Jr.
22	Kendrick Matthews	DB	5-9	166	So.
23	Ray Cheatham	DB	5-11	193	Sr.
25	Craig Boswell	DB	6-1	186	Jr.
26	Brett Childers	DB	6-1	192	Jr.
28	Jase Hartenbauer	DB	6-0	183	Fr.
29	Otis Johnson	DB	5-10	175	Jr.
30	Chris Carney	DB	6-1	190	Jr.
31	Tony Purvis	DB	6-0	170	Jr.
33	Marc St. Felix	DB	6-0	205	Fr.
35	Heath Alexander	DB	5-11	190	Sr.
36	Andrew Erker	DB	6-1	195	Sr.
37	Rashad Harrell	DB	5-10	177	Jr.

#	LINEBACKERS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
24	Dahrnaz Tigner	LB	6-2	223	So.
38	Jack Reed	LB	6-1	227	Jr.

39	John Houlik	LB	5-11	219	Jr.
40	Antonio Felder	LB	6-2	253	Jr.
43	Antwon Moore	LB	5-11	221	Sr.
44	Josh Berard	LB	6-2	220	Jr.
45	Kevin Rohleder	LB	6-0	217	So.
46	Ben Kall	LB	5-11	222	Fr.
47	Alex Hrebec	LB	5-11	238	Fr.
48	Cody Garrett	LB	6-0	200	Fr.
49	Aaron King	LB	6-0	200	Fr.
51	Ulla Pomele	LB	6-1	228	Jr.
53	Reggie Walker	LB	6-1	247	Sr.
56	Olu Hall	LB	6-3	230	Jr.
58	Chris Bamberger	LB	6-1	222	St.
59	Brian Hertzog	LB	5-11	211	Fr.
60	Hansen Sekona	LB	6-0	230	Sr.
#	KICKERS	>>>	HT	WT	YR.
17	George Pierson	P	6-0	201	Jr.
4	DJ. Fulhage	P/WR	5-9	180	So.
16	Brooks Rossman	PK	6-0	182	Sr.
18	Jared Parker	PK	5-11	211	Sr.
19	Josh Cherry	PK	6-1	183	So.

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# From selfish to selfless

BY STEVEN M. SIPPLE

**I**t happened last October.

It was 6 a.m. on a Sunday, still dark outside, a day after Nebraska's discouraging 45-14 loss to Oklahoma State in Lincoln, Neb.

The loss wasn't really what was bothering Roy Helu Jr. His issues ran much deeper than that. He was homesick. There were other things bothering him, things he didn't want to discuss during a recent interview with reporters.

"I don't know, I just felt empty," said Helu, a sophomore running back from Danville, Calif. "I don't know how to explain it."

Helu was at a loss that morning. So he called Nebraska's team chaplain, Matt Penland. Helu describes the phone call as being "a big turning point" in his life, because that's when he became serious about his faith.

"Before I left home, I was kind of on the edge, but I finally committed to it," Helu said. "It's an everyday thing. Sometimes, you know, it's not a happy situation all the time."

College students obviously face myriad challenges, and football players aren't immune. Many college students are on their own for the first time and have to adjust accordingly. They're trying to find their way, literally and figuratively. Money can be an issue. Heck, there can be all sorts of issues.

As for Helu, "I'm pretty selfish by nature," he said. "Before I came here (to Nebraska), and before I had my own faith, I was really pretty selfish. I found myself wanting more. You know, thinking about myself more than the team, especially this year.

"I mean, it's not a perfect situation for me."

Helu enjoyed a strong spring of practices. Suddenly, almost out of nowhere, he was drawing rave reviews from first-year head coach Bo Pelini. Helu was breaking off long runs in scrimmages. There was a buzz on message boards about the hard-nosed and fleet young running back with the flowing black hair. He had only moderate success

in 2007 as a true freshman backup (45 carries for 209 yards), but now seemed on the verge of a breakout year.

But now, in the late stages of the 2008 season, things still aren't perfect for Helu. He continues to share playing time in a three-man running back rotation with senior Marlon Lucky and sophomore Quentin Castille. Lucky has started every game this season and has been especially strong of late, although Helu also has had his moments. Through nine games, Helu had carried 66 times for 451 yards (6.8 per carry) and three touchdowns, with a long run of 57 yards. He also had 12 receptions for 156 yards.

The 6-0, 215-pound Helu had hoped to win the starting position. So, yes, things could be better. He's still trying to find his way in life. He's still battling those feelings of selfishness. He prays and seeks guidance from mentors. Helu keeps pushing forward, striving to keep a positive outlook, strengthened by his faith and motivated by the competition that exists virtually every day in practice.

"It's a little more relaxed now," Helu said. "But throughout the week, we commit ourselves to try to compete for the starting job. It's always up in the air."

Helu remains confident. In fact, when asked at what point he knew he could excel at the college level, Helu said, "My first rep (in practice in 2007) went real well. I haven't lost confidence since."

Helu, of Tongan descent, tries to run with the wisdom and abandon of another Tongan, standout rugby player Jonah Lomu. Helu played some rugby in high school and learned from the experience.

"It's angles – rugby's all about angles," Helu said. "I definitely learned open-field running. I always loved rugby. In my culture, that's our sport . . . Where I'm from, that's all they play."

Some would suggest rugby is inherently tougher than football.

"It's different," Helu said. "You've got to play offense and defense in rugby. Even though you guys (reporters) probably don't believe it, it's probably more physical, injury-wise,



**"I DON'T know, I just felt empty. I don't know how to explain it."**

SOPHOMORE  
ROY HELU JR.

because of all the pads we have in football."

Helu's toughness is evident on the playing field. He's a classic north-sound runner, meaning he doesn't waste a lot of time dancing side-to-side before he bolts upfield. He hits holes quickly. He explodes into contact. It's a style he used to gain 1,085 rushing yards as a senior at San Ramon Valley High School, helping the team to a 10-2 record. As a junior, he rushed for 1,526 yards, averaging 8.2 per carry, while also catching 30 passes for 500 yards.

Helu took only one recruiting visit, to Nebraska, but also received scholarship offers from Brigham Young, California and Oregon, among others. His decision basically came down to Cal or Nebraska. The Bears wanted him to play safety, while the Huskers wanted him as a running back all along.

But that wasn't necessarily the reason he chose Nebraska.

"I can't put my finger on it," he said. "But there wasn't playing time promised or anything like that. I just thought I needed to get away from a lot of stuff back home, and Cal wasn't a good place for me."

Helu said he was raised in an OK neighborhood. "It was when we went over to my grandma's house (in nearby San Mateo) on the weekends, that's what was different," said Helu, noting that "they have a lot of gangs over there."

"My life was a little different back then," he said. "I've got a lot of family back home and a lot of friends that had different influences. I was a weaker person. So I kind of went with the crowd, you know? Looking back, if I would've stayed there, I don't know what I'd be like."

Yes, Helu is stronger now, thanks in large part to Penland, the Husker team chaplain, and Ron Brown, the tight ends coach. Please flash back to that morning last October, when

Helu felt lost and called Penland at 6 a.m.

"He has a better perspective on life now, a big-picture perspective," Penland said. "It's a real transformation from being self-centered to (being about) others, so that's a big part of where those changes have led him."

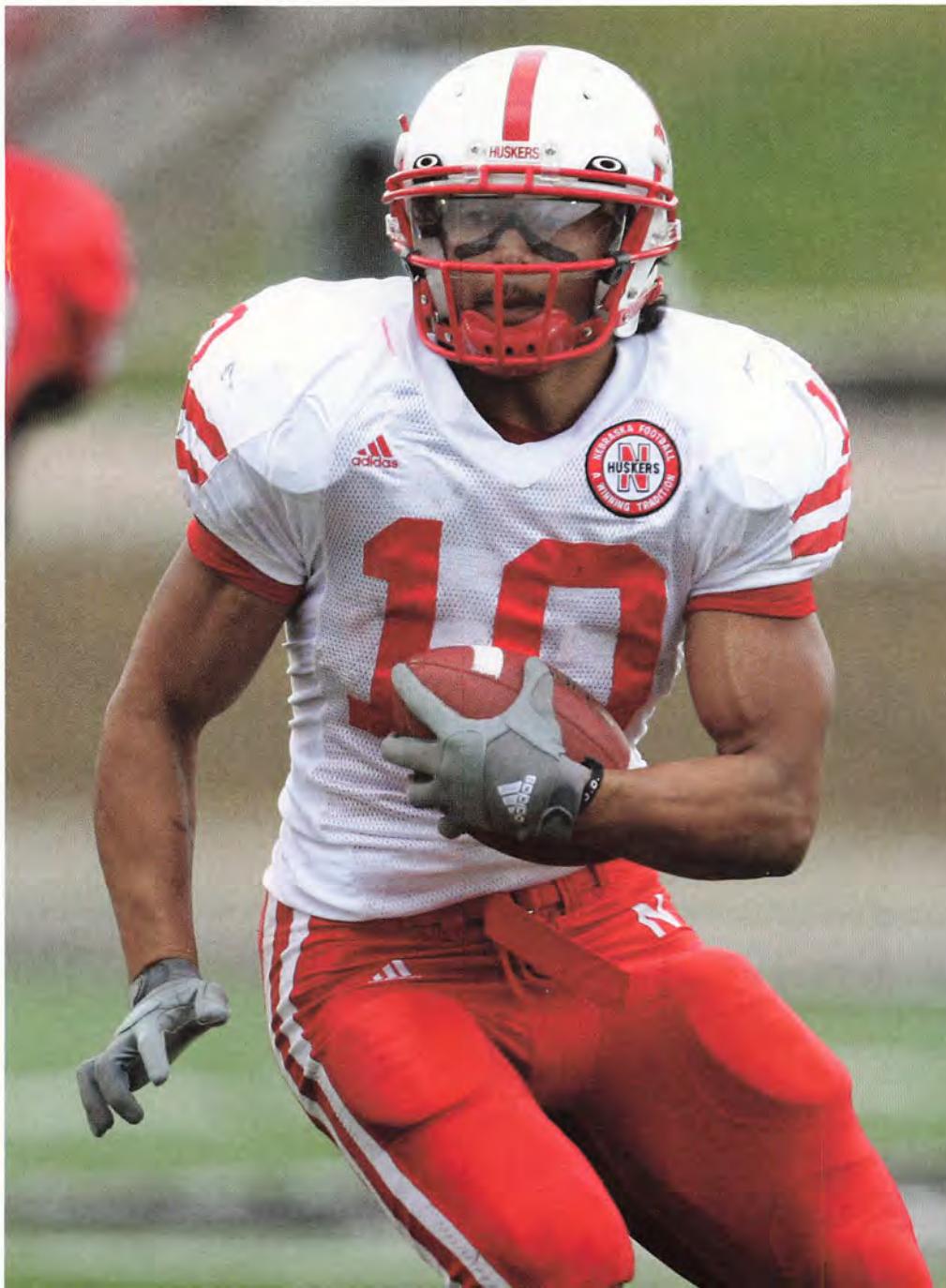
The changes also have led to long talks with Brown.

"We've talked a lot about the Lord and Roy's shared his faith and how he's growing in it," Brown said. "And the thing I love about Roy is he doesn't want to compartmentalize it. He doesn't want to just say, 'Well, I'm going to church on the

weekends,' and then come out here on the football field and totally leave that out of his life.

"I think he's making the connection that his faith in Jesus Christ and how he plays on that football field are very intertwined, and he's playing out that faith. And when you learn how to experience God's pleasure on the football field, there ain't nothing like it. And that's what I see him doing.

"Oh, he has his moments. He struggles just like I do and everyone does, but I just see him growing and I see that (faith) being very important in life." **N**



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# Around the Horn

BENEDIKT LINDHEIM



## TENNIS German freshmen enjoy quick start

BY TOMMY DAHLK

**N**ebraska freshmen Christopher Aumueller and Benedikt Lindheim have experienced many firsts this fall. Yes, the German tennis players are away from home and are experiencing a whole other culture for the first time, but the duo's most shocking firsts have come on the tennis court.

Before this year, Aumueller and Lindheim, who grew up in the same area, had never played on a hard tennis surface before. In fact, Lindheim had never played doubles in a tournament before. And now he and Aumueller are doubles partners.

Although they were no longer playing on clay, they have thrived playing doubles together. The duo has known each other for

12 years, but had only played against each other before coming to Lincoln.

This fall, it has looked as if they've been playing together for years. Playing together for the first time, Lindheim and Aumueller finished second in the main draw doubles at the ITA Central Regional Championships in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

"We had no real goals at this tournament," Lindheim said. "We just wanted to see what was going to happen. Each round we kept playing better, and we got all the way to the finals. It was really, really good."

Aumueller said their unorthodox doubles strategy might have confused opponents.

"We mostly play from the baseline," Aumueller said. "It's common to go to the net and come in and play for some quick points. We know that we are much better from the baseline. Our opponents have kind

of struggled because we don't come in after our serve."

Although they didn't have too many lofty goals heading into this fall, the German pair expects to do even better next spring.

Head coach Kerry McDermott said Aumueller and Lindheim should be the No. 2-ranked doubles tandem in the central region next year and said the Huskers' future looks bright.

"We are going to be pretty strong for the next couple of years," McDermott said. "I'm happy with the way the program is going and hope we continue to improve." **N**

#### 2008-09 MEN'S TENNIS ROSTER

Aumueller, Christopher	6-0	160	Fr.
Bendheim, David	6-1	165	Jr.
Boney, Taylor	5-9	155	So.
Freeman, Drew	5-9	130	Fr.
Kalil-Toledo, Pedro	6-1	200	Jr.
Lindheim, Benedikt	6-0	157	Fr.
Lysgaard, Jake	5-11	180	Fr.
Melo, Renato	5-10	160	Sr.
Paar, Calin	6-2	165	So.
Stahmer, Hendrik	6-2	180	Sr.
Van Impe, Francois	6-3	175	Jr.
Videtic, Brandon	6-4	165	Fr.

#### 2008-09 MEN'S TENNIS SCHEDULE

Sept. 12-14	at Virginia Fall Tournament
Sept. 26-28	at Virginia Ranked Plus 1 Tourney
Oct. 3-5	at Pre-Qualifying Tournament
Oct. 6-8	at Qualifying Rounds
Oct. 16-20	at ITA Central Regional Championships
Jan. 31	vs. San Francisco, at Las Vegas
Feb. 1	at Nevada
Feb. 6	at Indiana
Feb. 7	vs. Georgia State, at Bloomington, Ind.
Feb. 14	vs. Marquette, at San Antonio
Feb. 15	at Texas-San Antonio
Feb. 18	at Drake
Feb. 27	vs. Oregon, at Denver, Colo.
Feb. 28	at Denver University
March 7	<b>Wichita State</b>
March 7	<b>Bradley</b>
March 7	<b>UMKC</b>
March 21	<b>BYU</b>
March 22	<b>Southern Mississippi</b>
Mar. 27-28	at Boise State Tournament
April 4	<b>Baylor</b>
April 5	<b>Oklahoma</b>
April 7	at Oklahoma State
April 10	at Texas A&M
April 12	<b>Texas Tech</b>
April 19	at Texas
April 23-26	Big 12 Championships Norman, Okla.

## HUSKER QUICK HITS

### OLIVER OFF

Senior **CHRIS OLIVER**, a three-year starter at 157 pounds, is no longer a member of the wrestling team, leaving coach **MARK MANNING**'s team with five returning starters, four of them All-Americans. Oliver was 16-11 last season, after qualifying for the NCAA championships as a sophomore.

Manning gave no explanation of Oliver's departure when contacted by the *Lincoln Journal Star*. Nebraska, pre-season ranked No. 6, is scheduled to open the season with a dual against Tennessee-Chattanooga on Nov. 20 at the NU Coliseum.

### THIRD-PLACE FINISH

Sophomore **LARA CROFFORD** and junior **RACHEL CARRIZALES** led the Husker women's cross country team to third place at the Big 12 Championships in Ames, Iowa. Crofford finished sixth, the highest for a Husker woman since **AMY WISEMAN** finished sixth in 1997. Carrizales finished ninth.

The other Nebraska finishers were: **NATALJA CALLAHAN** (Zarcenko), 23rd; **JEN PANCOAST**, 24th; **JEN WEBERS**, 40th; **ASHLEY MILLER**, 64th; **BETSY MILLER**, 65th; **KATIE WHITE**, 73rd; **JESSICA FURLAN**, 88th.

The Husker men's team finished seventh. Redshirted freshman **DAVID ADAMS** again paced the men, finishing 26th. Adams has led the men's team in every meet this season.

The remaining men's finishers were: **MIKEL THOMAS**, 33rd; **KYLE CUSTER**, 44th; **BRAD DOERING**, 46th; **ANTHONY OBERLE**, 67th; **BRYCE SOMER**, 72nd; **PETER FALCON**, 75th; **JESSE ADAMS**, 82nd.

Next up for the Huskers is the NCAA Midwest Regional in Stillwater, Okla., on Nov. 15.

Crofford and Callahan earned All-Midwest Region recognition last season.

### FALL SEASON

The Nebraska women's golf team wrapped up its fall season with a seventh-place finish at the 16-team Challenge at Wolfdancer at Lost Pines, Texas, in early November.

**KATE WHITE**, a junior from Waukegan, Ill., was the Huskers' top finisher, tying for

11th with a three-round, 14-over-par total of 230. It was her fourth top-15 finish of the fall season.

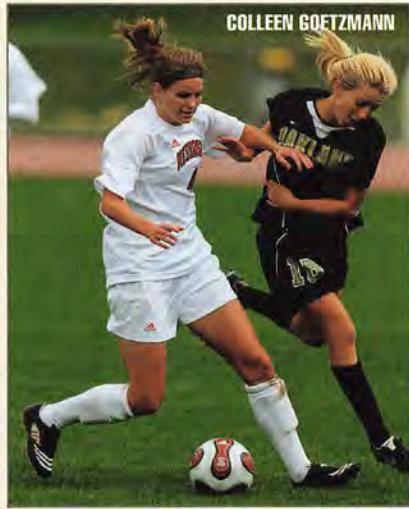
**CHARLOTTE WENDNER** tied for 17th with a 231 total, followed by **JC STEVENSON** (T24, 235), **RACHEL HANIGAN** (T51, 247), **NATALIE GLEADALL** and **MADDIE SHEILS** (both T61, 249).

The Huskers are scheduled to resume competition at the Aztec Spring Invitational in Chula Vista, Calif., Feb. 15-17.

### ALL-BIG 12

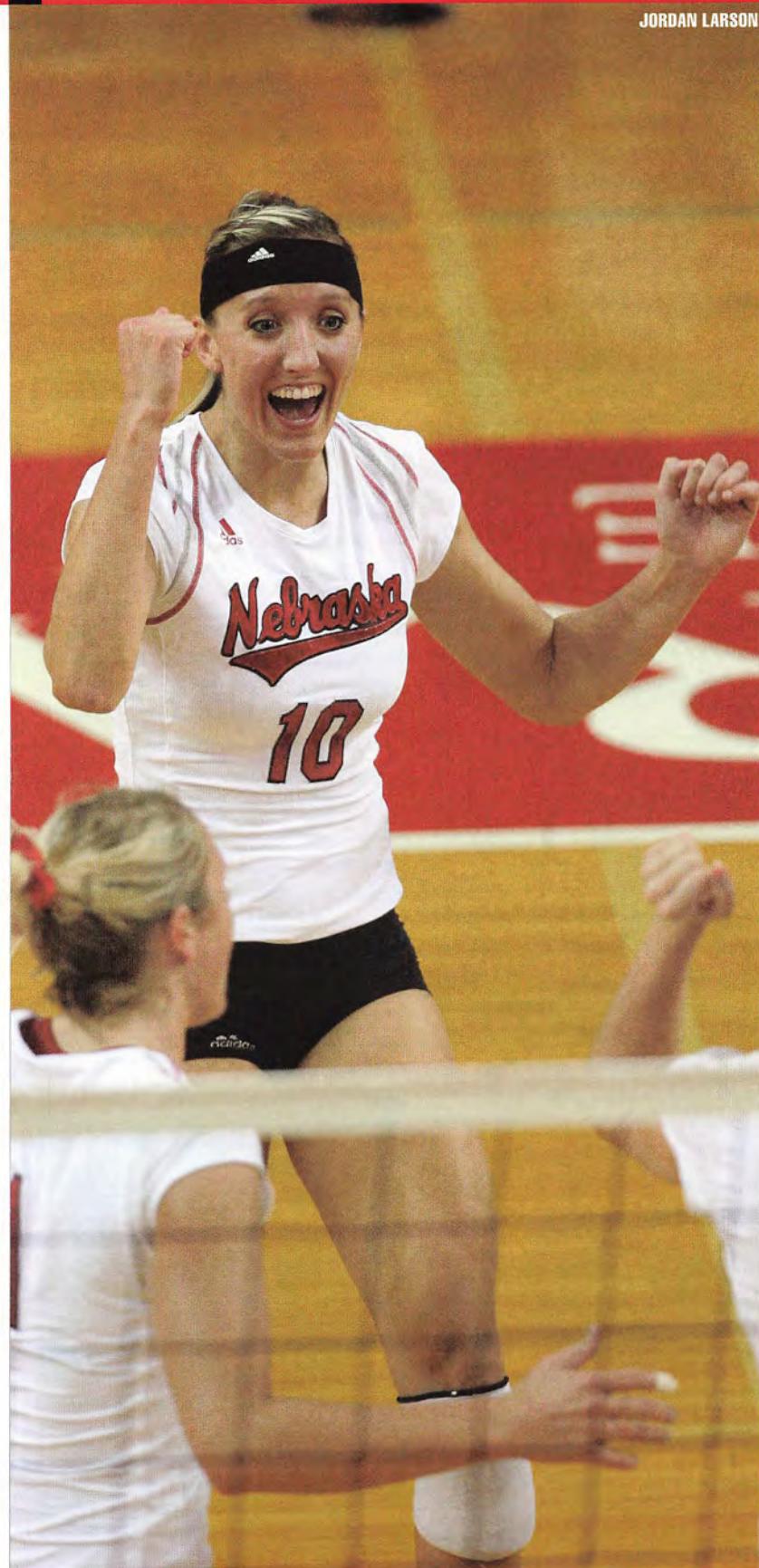
Coach **JOHN WALKER**'s Husker soccer team placed three players on All-Big 12 teams, with mid-fielder senior **AYSHA JAMANI** earning first-team recognition after second-team honors in each of the last two seasons. Junior defender **CARLY PEETZ** was a second-team selection. And freshman **MOLLY THOMAS** was named to the conference all-newcomer team. Thomas was the Huskers' only freshman this season. She finished the regular season with 11 points, on five goals and one assist. Jamani scored nine points during the regular season, on three goals and three assists.

Nebraska finished the regular season with a 3-1 victory at Iowa State. Sophomore forward **MICHAELLA FULMER** led the Huskers with three points, on what proved to be the winning goal in the 71st minute and an assist. Sophomore mid-fielder **COLLEEN GOETZMANN** scored her first career goal and junior forward **SHAY POWELL** completed the scoring with her seventh goal of the season.



# Volleyball

JORDAN LARSON



BY BOB HAMAR

## End is near for Jordan Larson

The senior from Hooper, Neb., has been a starter for the Huskers since the moment she stepped on campus. There have been ups and downs, a national championship and a runner-up and All-American honors.

Now it's nearly over and Larson doesn't know what's next.

"I don't know," Larson said. "I mean I've had 22 years planned out for me. When I graduated high school, I'm going to the university and play volleyball for four years. I'm graduating in December. Well, what am I going to do now?"

"It's scary, but I'm kind of looking forward to paving my own path. I think I've had a really good experience here helping me prepare for that."

Senior night is just around the corner for Larson and fellow seniors Amanda Gates and Rachel Schwartz. Those three will be honored after their final home regular season match against Texas Tech on Nov. 22.

"It doesn't even seem possible," Larson said. "I'm sure on senior night I'll be a little more emotional, but it's been a great experience for me. I'm kind of excited to see what's beyond this."

Of course before that there's the little matter of the NCAA Tournament as the Huskers will try to earn their way to Omaha for the Final Four. If the Huskers are to get there, Larson will have to lead the way.

But she's been leading all season long. After

three years of playing in the shadows of All-Americans like Sarah Pavan and Christina Houghtelling, Larson knew she would have to be the go-to player this season just as she was in high school at Logan View.

Nebraska coach John Cook said Larson's demeanor on the court has been a big plus for his team this season.

"It's her composure and her confidence," Cook said when asked what Larson has improved on the most this season. "Jordan doesn't panic. She's a veteran. She's been through a lot of big matches. She knows you can't be way up and down on every point. She's a very mature, poised player. I think that calms down players like Tara (Mueller), (Lindsey) Licht and Sydney (Anderson) to have a player like that on the court because those guys tend to be more up and down."

Staying on an even keel has been Larson's goal all season long. Don't get too up with the big wins and don't get too down when things go bad.

"I'm just trying to handle myself and just take care of business and maybe set an example and keep everybody on that level course," Larson said. "If somebody makes an error, 'Hey, keep swinging. We got your back.'"

Larson's statistics this season don't tell the whole story. Through the first 20 matches she was averaging 3.85 kills per set while hitting at a .260 clip. She was also second on the team in digs behind libero Kayla Banwarth.

"Her numbers are not off the charts," Cooks said. "Part of that is we're asking her to do a lot. We're asking her to hit out of the back row. You're never going to hit out of the back row for as high a percentage as you'll hit out of the front row. That always diminishes that a little bit."

"What you have to look at is what Jordan contributes to every match... She always runs points on serve. She may not get aces, but you have to look at how many points we're running when she's serving."

Larson said teams were keying on her early in the season, but the pressure has lessened as the Huskers showed they have other weapons on the team.

"Initially they probably did, but all the players on our team have established their

role or their capability of making a kill or doing what they need to do," Larson said. "I don't know how people defend us any more because I think we have so many different things coming from different areas."

"Like Sydney. She's getting kills. She's setting behind. They have so many hitters to worry about."

Cook said the Huskers always try to match Larson up against the opponent's top hitters. That's just another place where she can have an impact on a match. Serving, serve receive, passing, attacking and blocking. Larson pretty much can do it all.

"The stats don't always tell the impact she's having on matches," Cook said. "That's what makes her so unique. She's such a great all-around player. She does all the skills really well, and there are very, very few players in the country you can say that about."

And there are few players who work any harder than Larson. The morning after the Huskers suffered their first loss of the year

at Colorado, Larson was in the weight room working out.

NU weight coach Brandon Rigoni later told Cook that if all the players took a loss the same way as Larson, the Huskers had nothing to worry about.

"So he sensed right away Thursday morning after we got back from Colorado that she was in there on a mission and working hard," Cook said.

And the only place to end that mission is in the Final Four in Omaha.

## HUSKERS IN USA TODAY

The Husker program was featured in *USA Today* in October. No. 1 Penn State, a team that has been dominating every opponent this year, hasn't gotten that same attention.

"I'm sure there will be stories on Penn State as we get closer to the tournament," Cook said. "I think one of the things different here is there has been other things around our team – selling out Devaney, getting over 10,000 at the Qwest, the sellout streak, things like that – that draw attention to our program."

## COOK HATES TO LOSE

The loss to Colorado was tough for the Huskers and Cook to take. In the long run it might prove to be a good thing for the players, but probably not for the coach.

"It's not good for my digestive system or my sleep, but maybe for them it was great," Cook said. "I do know this that in sports, the game is going to test you. Last year after we lost to Texas, I'm not sure we responded well. This year that was a big test for us. It will be a great story to see how we continue to respond to that."

## SIGN THEM UP

The college volleyball signing period begins on Nov. 12. The Huskers are expected to sign four players in Ewing middle blocker Haley Thramer, outside hitter Gina Mancuso of Papillion-LaVista, outside hitter Hannah Werth of Glenwood, Ill., and libero Megan Pendergast of League City, Texas.

Werth is a younger sister to Jayson Werth, an outfielder who helped the Philadelphia Phillies to their first World Series championship since 1980. **■**

### 2008 VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE (21-1, 13-1 BIG 12)

Aug. 29-31	Runza/AVCA Showcase
Aug. 29	*Stanford, W, 3-0
Aug. 31	*USC, W, 3-1
Sept. 1	Oral Roberts, W 3-0
Sept. 5-6	Cal Poly Invite
Sept. 5	Tulane, W, 3-0
Sept. 6	Cal Poly, W, 3-0
Sept. 12-13	Ameritas Players Challenge
Sept. 12	LSU, W, 3-0
Sept. 13	New Mexico, W, 3-0
Sept. 17	at Kansas State, W, 3-1
Sept. 20	Texas, W, 3-1
Sept. 24	Kansas, W, 3-1
Sept. 27	at Iowa State, W, 3-1
Oct. 1	at Texas Tech, W, 3-0
Oct. 4	Colorado, W, 3-0
Oct. 5	*Creighton, W, 3-0
Oct. 8	Oklahoma, W, 3-0
Oct. 12	at Missouri, W, 3-0
Oct. 15	Baylor, W, 3-0
Oct. 22	Texas A&M, W, 3-0
Oct. 25	at Oklahoma, W, 3-0
Oct. 29	at Colorado, L, 1-3
Nov. 1	Iowa State, W, 3-1
Nov. 5	at Texas A&M, W, 3-2
Nov. 8	Kansas State, TBA
Nov. 12	Missouri, 7 p.m.
Nov. 15	at Kansas, TBA
Nov. 19	at Texas, 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 22	Texas Tech, 7 p.m.
Nov. 29	at Baylor, 7 p.m.
Dec. 5-6	NCAA 1st/2nd Rounds, TBA
Dec. 12-13	*NCAA Regionals
Dec. 18-20	*NCAA Semifinals, Finals * at Quest Center, Omaha

# Men's Basketball

SEK HENRY

BY BRIAN ROSENTHAL

## Sadler sees options at point



For the second season in a row, Doc Sadler has questions about who will be playing point guard for the Nebraska men's basketball team.

The difference is that this season the questions are less troubling.

Sadler has two experienced players vying for the starting position. Last season, the Huskers were replacing veteran Charles Richardson, and Sadler was in the precarious position of choosing between two true freshmen.

One of them, Cookie Miller, started 24 games and wowed fans with his quickness and ball-handling skills despite being only 5 feet, 7 inches. The other, Brandon Richardson, redshirted.

Miller, though, suffered a shoulder sprain in a Feb. 22 game at Texas A&M, and Sek Henry stepped in, starting Nebraska's final eight games of the season. Miller missed three full games, and when he returned, he came off the bench, as the Huskers weren't missing a beat with Henry directing the show.

"I did get into a flow," Henry said. "I felt confident in myself and I helped lead the team, and the team believed in me, which really helped too. Because if they didn't believe in me, it could've gone bad."

Hence, some decision-making for Sadler. Who starts? Miller, the small but slick sophomore, or Henry, the 6-3 junior whom Sadler feels gives Nebraska a better defensive edge?

Before Henry suffered a foot injury that

sidelined him for four pre-season practices, Sadler said Henry had the edge. Even with that time missed, Henry has plenty of time to catch up, Sadler said.

"You can't forget about Brandon Richardson, either," Miller said. "He's a good guard, too. We have three good guards, and probably more than that, who can play at the one spot."

It might take that many, too.

"If we're going to play the way I want to play," Sadler said, "you're not going to be able to play more than 4 or 5 minutes at a time."

So while the starting battle continues, Miller and Henry keep those words in mind.

"We've been pushing each other, but I don't think we really worry about who's starting or who won't start," Henry said. "It's all about winning right now. We've got to show this state that this basketball team is here to play and win games. Big games, too."

Said Miller: "It don't matter to me. As long as I'm out on the floor and helping the team in any way that I can, I'm going to be thankful for it."

Miller averaged 6.1 points and 3.6 assists last season. He was Nebraska's second-leading scorer on the road, averaging 10.1 points away from home. His 109 assists were the second most by a Nebraska freshman. Tyronn Lue had 144 in 1995-96.

In the off-season, Miller concentrated on shooting.

"I've got confidence in my shot now," said Miller, whose 47.3 percent shooting last year including many driving shots. He was 24 percent on three-pointers.

"I'm probably going to take more shots this year than last year. Coach has been encouraging me to shoot the ball more."

Miller, whose shoulder healed without surgery, said he's 100 percent. Sadler said he's hoping for improved on-ball pressure from Miller, and better ball distribution, as in "getting the ball to guys when they're ready to shoot the ball instead of over-dribbling."

Henry is among Nebraska's most versatile players, having playing point guard, shooting

guard and on the wing. He's the only Husker who's played in all 64 games under Sadler, who's beginning his third season.

Henry averaged 5.9 points and 1.5 assists last season, when he finished with two more turnovers than assists. But his length and verticality give Nebraska something extra on defense with Miller out of the lineup.

And despite his turnover-assist ratio, Henry directed the team nicely after Miller's injury last season. The Huskers were 4-4 with Henry at point guard, with a four-point loss at No. 9 Texas, a 10-point loss to eventual national champion Kansas and an overtime loss to Mississippi in the National Invitation Tournament.

"I was surprised in some areas," Sadler said of Henry's performance. "I knew defensively we could be a better team, but I was surprised at how little Sek missed a beat as far as knowing what we were doing. He was able to get into everything. You've never been a point guard it's hard to make that adjustment. I thought he did a nice job."

The 6-0 Richardson could be a back-up point guard, although Richardson's strength is probably off-guard, Sadler said. That leaves

Miller and Henry as the primary point guards.

"I've been here for three years," Henry said. "I'd love to start, and practice has been really, really competitive, which is good, because we're pushing each other so hard. When game time comes, we shouldn't have a problem playing hard, because that's what we're used to playing."

## BUMPS AND BRUISES

Sek Henry was feeling good about practice. He was finding a rhythm, picking up where he left off last season as Nebraska's starting point guard.

Then, he twisted his foot and ankle. The injury caused the Nebraska junior to miss four practices last week.

"I was down on myself," Henry said, "because I knew that would affect me being off-rhythm."

The good news for Nebraska is that Brandon Richardson returned after missing a week with an ankle injury.

In other injury news for the Huskers, freshman Eshaunte Jones continues to be bothered by a sore ankle, an injury that sidelined him for half of last season at his prep school. Alex Chapman is still recovering from arthroscopic knee surgery he had in mid-October.

## CRUISING IN EXHIBITION

Sophomore Catheryn Redmon, filling in for injured Kelsey Griffin, scored 16 points to lead the Nebraska women's basketball team to a 102-30 exhibition victory over Chadron State on Oct. 31.

Griffin is out indefinitely with an ankle bone bruise and could redshirt.

Dominique Kelley, Cory Montgomery and Nikki Bober also scored in double figures, as the Huskers shot 53.2 percent from the field.

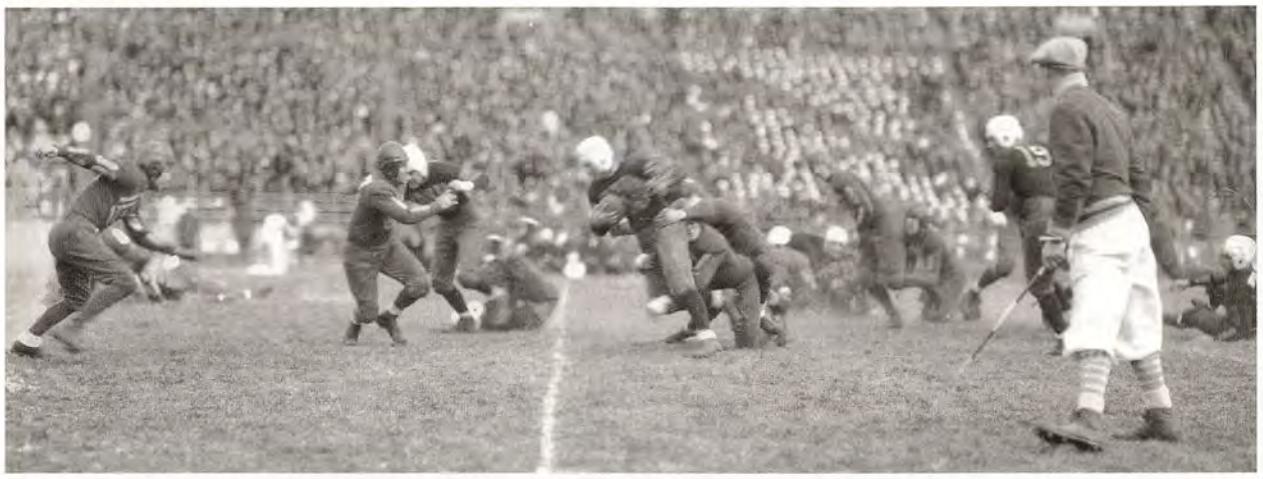
"We played a little quick on offense and took some quick shots," said Nebraska coach Connie Yori, whose team led by 37 points at halftime. "This was a team that we could have gotten the ball inside a little bit more in the first half."

The Eagles dressed eight players and had two key contributors from last year sit out. **N**



# FROM THE ARCHIVES

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNL ARCHIVES



**1927 HOMECOMING** - Nebraska rolled past Kansas in the Cornhuskers' Homecoming game on Nov. 5, 1927 at Memorial Stadium, 47-13. Coach Ernie Bear's team finished with a 6-2 record, but a 7-6 loss at Missouri cost the Cornhuskers a championship in the final season of the Missouri Valley Conference. Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Kansas, Kansas State and Iowa State broke away from the MVC to form the Big Six in 1928, leaving Washington, Mo., Grinnell, Drake and Oklahoma A&M to fend for themselves. Nebraska's 1927 team was built on power, with halfbacks Glenn Presnell and Blue Howell running behind a line that included junior guard Dan McMullen and sophomore tackle Ray Richards, both of whom would earn All-America honors as seniors. Center Ted James and tackle Roy Randels also were first-team all-conference honorees in 1927. Presnell, who was from tiny Gilead, Neb., and attended high school in DeWitt, earned All-America recognition on the Consolidated Press team selected by noted sports writer Lawrence Perry. "Some teams stopped (Red) Grange cold, but no one stopped Presnell," Perry wrote.

## TOM OSBORNE'S FIRST SEASON

Game 11, Nov. 23, 1973 at Owen Field, Norman, Okla.

### Oklahoma 27, Nebraska 0

Nebraska	0	0	0	0	-	0
Oklahoma	14	0	6	7	-	27

(O) Waymon Clark 2 run (Rick Fulcher kick)

(O) Steve Davis 47 run (Fulcher kick)

(O) Davis 1 run (pass failed)

(O) Davis 8 run (Fulcher kick)

**Attendance:** 61,826

Nebraska and Oklahoma played in Norman for the first time since the 1971 "Game of the Century," with a dramatically different result. Barry Switzer, like **TOM OSBORNE**, was in his first season as coach of the No. 3-ranked Sooners. Nebraska was ranked No. 10.

Because of NCAA sanctions for recruiting violations, Oklahoma wasn't eligible for a bowl game and would be prohibited from appearing on television for the next two seasons as well. So Switzer was determined to make a statement before a national television audience. He didn't begin substituting until the final minute of the game, after the Sooners scored their fourth touchdown with 2:11 remaining.

The touchdown was set up by a 41-yard pass from quarterback Steve Davis to wide receiver Tinker Owens. Davis attempted only 10 passes (completing three), directing the option-oriented Wishbone offense. He was the game's leading rusher with 114 yards on 18 carries.

Oklahoma's strength, however, was a defense that featured the Selmon brothers – Lucious, LeRoy and Dewey – as well as linebacker Rod Shoate, who was credited with a team-high 14 tackles.

Nebraska never snapped the ball on Oklahoma's side of the 50-yard line and managed only 174 yards, including 74 rushing. **TONY DAVIS** (pictured) gained 41 of the yards to become the third Cornhusker in history to rush for more than 1,000 yards in a season. **BOBBY REYNOLDS** and **JEFF KINNEY** preceded him.

The Cornhuskers, who had scored a combined 109 points in their previous three games, hadn't been shut out since the final game of the 1968 season, 47-0 at Oklahoma.

Nebraska never kicked off during the game. The Sooners won the coin toss

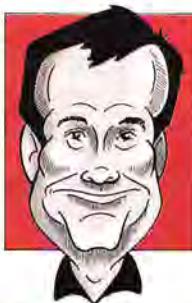


and elected to defend a goal. With the victory, they declared themselves Cotton Bowl champions, having defeated Texas, Nebraska's opponent in Dallas on New Year's Day, 52-13 earlier in the season.

**OSBORNE:** "We tried everything. We really thought we could do a better job of moving the ball. It wasn't any secret. We wanted to come out and establish our running game, make them play us straight, and then mix in the passes when we wanted to throw."

**DID YOU KNOW?** An oil embargo in the Middle East contributed to gasoline and heating fuel shortages, with the federal government considering gasoline rationing and a weekend ban on gasoline sales. According to Lincoln newspaper reports, at least 16 Nebraska towns would face a shortage of heating oil. Among the towns were Ord, Burwell, Cambridge and Wayne. Two of Lincoln's drive-in movie theaters remained open after Thanksgiving, advertising electric, in-car heaters. *Midnight Cowboy*, with Dustin Hoffman and Jon Voight, was showing at the 84th & O Drive-In.





## THE FINAL WORD

BY MIKE BABCOCK

# Kansas game anything but conventional

**NO, IT WASN'T THE COLD** on a gray November afternoon at Memorial Stadium, with the temperature in the 30s, driven by a gusty, 21-mile-an-hour, north wind. The cold didn't distort reality.

Those who had sat, or stood, for three and a half quarters in it might have thought so, however, when Ndamukong Suh snagged a Joe Ganz pass and rambled into the south end zone.

And yes, Suh rambled. A 6-4, 300-pound defensive tackle rambles after snagging a pass, even if he only covers 2 yards after snagging it. That's the only way to describe it.

Nebraska needed 2 yards on second-and-goal. And sure-handed Suh got them.

"Everybody gives me a hard time, but I think, personally, I've got good hands for a big guy," Suh said following the Cornhuskers' 45-35 victory against Kansas.

"I had the most confidence in me definitely catching the ball."

Apparently, so did offensive coordinator Shawn Watson, who called the unconventional play with Nebraska leading 31-28 and less than 6 minutes remaining. "I wasn't sure if that was Franco Harris or who that was," coach Bo Pelini said. "But it was a heck of a play."

That Suh lined up in the backfield wasn't unusual. Teams occasionally use defensive linemen as blockers in goal-line situations. But using defensive linemen as receivers is a different matter.

Using a 6-2, 175-pound soccer player turned place-kicker as a ball carrier also is unconventional. But the Cornhuskers did that, too, and it worked almost as well.

On fourth-and-8 from the Kansas 20-yard line, less than 2 minutes after Suh's

touchdown catch, place-kicker Alex Henery took an over-the-head pitch from holder Jake Wesch and carried 9 yards. "We thought it was there," said Pelini. "We just want to teach him to tuck the ball away."

Henery fumbled. But Nebraska recovered and scored three plays later.

Finally, an I-back throwing a jump pass for a touchdown might be unconventional under different circumstances, but the Cornhuskers have done that before with Marlon Lucky.

Well, Lucky hadn't thrown a jump pass before the Kansas game. But he had thrown three previous touchdown passes, one of them to Ganz earlier this season.

This time the pass went to tight end Mike McNeill, on second-and-goal from the Kansas 4-yard line late in the first quarter. Lucky took a direct snap from center in Nebraska's "joker" alignment, started forward as if to run, then jumped up and tossed the ball to a wide-open McNeill.

"I think Marlon threw it in the dirt yesterday when we tried it, or Thursday," said Ganz, who was split out to the left on the play. "So we were a little hesitant to run it."

"When the lights are on, Marlon somehow gets that right arm going."

The touchdown was the game's first, for a 7-0 lead.

"We carry a lot of those things week to week," Pelini said of the unconventional plays. "We've been progressing with the direct snap to Marlon, that part of the offense."

"'Wats' called the right things at the right time."

He also mixed in enough conventional

plays, in particular the passing of Ganz and the running of I-back Roy Helu Jr., to generate 495 yards of offense and, most importantly, the 45 points.

And "we probably left 14, 17 points on the field," said Ganz, who completed 28-of-37 passes for 324 yards and three touchdowns. "We have a really good offense."

"The only thing stopping us right now is ourselves."

He threw one interception and the Cornhuskers lost 2-of-4 fumbles.

More often than not, the team with fewer turnovers wins. But that wasn't the case this time because even more often than not, the team with the better line play wins.

And, by all accounts, Nebraska had the better line play.

"It all starts with those guys up front," Ganz said of the offensive line. "It just shows what our passing game and running game can do with good protection and good blocking."

Pelini offered a similar assessment of the defensive line. "We thought we could get after 'em up front," he said. "I think since the beginning of the year that's been the strength of our defense."

"It gives you a lot of options when the front four is playing like that."

Suh, one of those four, gave the offense an option, too. He and defensive coordinator Carl Pelini, his position coach, have "always talked about it, joked about it," said Suh, who led the defense with 12 tackles and 2.5 sacks. "If the offense needs me, I'm more than willing to help them if I can."

So no, his touchdown catch was no illusion, brought on by the cold. **N**

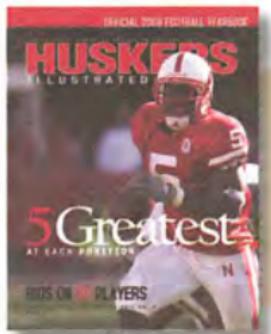
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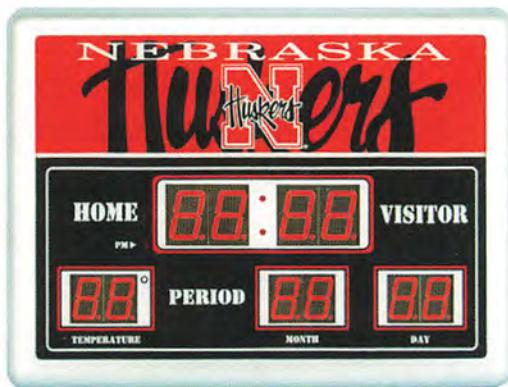
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